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STARS STRIPES.®

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HANI MOHAMMED/AP

Houthi Shiite Yemeni chant slogans during the funeral procession of men killed during recent clashes with presidential forces in Sanaa, Yemen, on Friday. Shiite rebels have called on supporters to hold mass rallies, a day after the country's embattled president and cabinet resigned.

Death of Saudi King Abdullah adds uncertainty to region

The Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi Arabia's newly enthroned King Salman moved quickly Friday to name a future successor to the crown in his oil-rich kingdom, an appointment that puts the kingdom's future squarely in the hands of a new generation.

King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud's actions came as the Sunni-ruled kingdom mourned King Abdullah, who died Friday at 90 after nearly two decades in power.

He was buried Friday afternoon in an unmarked grave, his body shrouded in a simple beige cloth without

a coffin. The austere, subdued burial was in line with Islamic tradition that all people, even kings, are equal in death before God.

The king's death adds yet more uncertainty in a region already overwhelmed by crises and as Saudi Arabia is itself in a struggle with Iran for regional dominance.

In addition to the long-running Sunni-Shiite divisions between Saudi Arabia and Iran, the "Arab Spring" uprisings have plunged several governments into chaos, and resulted in violence and crackdowns in Egypt, Libya, Syria and other nations.

SEE KING ON PAGE 11



AP

Mourners carry the body of King Abdullah outside the Imam Turki bin Abdullah mosque in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Friday. Abdullah died early Friday at age 90.

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

"I started comedy when the boom was ending, in '88; I started writing books when print began to die. I'm drawn to dying realms, man."

— Patton Oswalt, who has written a book called "Silver Screen Fiend: Learning About Life From an Addiction to Film"

See story on Page 19

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3. Crews search for ways to free grounded Military Sealift Command ship
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MILITARY

Bill would cut benefits for VA execs

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee took aim again Thursday at VA management with an overhaul bill that would reclaim some pensions, would limit paid administrative leave, and would reduce the number of employee bonuses.

Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., said the legislation is meant to root out corruption among about 292 senior department executives following a nationwide scandal over treatment delays and records manipulation in its health care system last year. Earlier this month, he introduced another bill that would allow the VA secretary to reclaim the performance bonuses of executives implicated in the scandal.

Federal audits found that 70 percent of the Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals and clinics used off-the-books waiting lists to hide long delays in providing care to veterans. But the VA has yet to fire any executives specifically

for the records manipulation — the former Phoenix hospital director at center of the wait-list scandal was terminated in December for accepting amusement park trips and concert tickets from contractors.

"More than 9 months after the VA scandal, Americans are asking, 'Where is the accountability?' Unfortunately, VA doesn't have a good answer to this question," Miller said in a released statement. "That's why our focus remains on giving the VA secretary more tools to ensure corrupt and incompetent executives face serious consequences for mismanagement and malfeasance that harms veterans."

Here is what the bill would do:

- If an executive is convicted of a felony crime that influenced their job performance, the VA secretary could subtract the amount of job service that counts toward a retirement pension.

- No more than 30 percent of VA executives could receive the two highest employee perfor-

mance ratings in a single year. The bill creates a five-level rating scale for executives, which helps determine pay bonuses, and would replace a system in which nearly all VA executives received high performance ratings.

- The department could not put any executives on paid administrative leave for more than two weeks. The VA drew criticism last year for paying some executives for months while sorting out allegations of wrongdoing.

- Every five years, each senior executive would be required to change jobs to a new position "that does not include the supervision of the same personnel and programs."

Miller has come out swinging against the VA in the new congressional session after a series of oversight hearings last year.

He filed another bill earlier this month that would claw back annual bonus payments from executives implicated in the wait-time manipulation. The payments had ranged between about \$6,000 and

\$12,000 before the scandal broke, according to VA records supplied to the House.

Last summer, Miller struck a deal with Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., to pass the \$16.3 billion Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act. That law included sections designed to allow VA Secretary Bob McDonald to more easily and quickly fire senior federal executives involved in the health care system wrongdoing.

Those employees are governed by the same rules throughout the federal government and were entitled to an appeals process that often lasted months until the law trimmed the process to four weeks.

Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson said in November the VA was proposing disciplinary action against 42 executives, but was also allowing them an additional five days to make their cases because expedited firings could be overturned by an appeals board.

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Crews seek way to free grounded ship off Okinawa

By ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

YOKOHAMA, Japan — The USNS Sgt. Matej Kocak remained grounded for a second day Friday in waters near Okinawa as divers and other personnel determine the best way to free the stranded cargo ship.

Preliminary reports indicate the ship sustained some hull damage, though the extent is still being evaluated, Navy 7th Fleet spokesman Lt. Charles Banks said.

A "manageable" level of water is leaking into the ship, Banks said. Kocak's 131 crewmembers remain aboard, although a landing craft utility ship remains on scene if evacuation is needed.

The crew of the ship, which is operated by the Military Sealift Command, includes 38 civilians, 26 Marines and 67 soldiers.

High tide Thursday night did not refloat Kocak naturally, Banks said, so planners must find another way to remove the ship.



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The Military Sealift Command pre-positioning vessel USNS Sgt. Matej Kocak sails in an updated photo.

Military experts on groundings were headed Friday to the scene, about six miles from the Uruma coastline, and divers were assessing the situation, officials said.

Tugboats were keeping the ship

stable.

"We cannot make attempt to float the vessel with tugs before the assessment is completed," Banks said.

Floating a grounded ship de-

pends on many factors and can be as simple as towing the ship off a ledge; or, as in the extreme case of the USS Guardian in 2013 when it struck a coral reef in the Philippines, it can mean systematically dismantling a ship at sea.

It was unclear Friday afternoon whether the 821-foot ship was transiting in shallow waters, or whether it was moving within generally deep waters and struck an outcropping. It was also unknown whether any live coral was affected, and there were no reports of fuel leaking into the water, Banks added.

Okinawa, an island of about 1.4 million people, is home to the bulk of U.S. forces in Japan and considered strategically valuable because of its proximity to several potential flashpoints in the Asia-Pacific region.

The island is also economically dependent on drawing tourists, many of whom come to explore its warm-water reefs.

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MILITARY

Incoming commander focuses on warfighting

By JENNIFER HLAD
Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION NORTH ISLAND, Calif. — The new commander of Naval Air Forces said Thursday that his main goal is to empower commodores and air group and carrier commanders to allow them to “focus on warfighting first.”

Newly promoted Vice Adm. Mike Shoemaker took command of Naval Air Forces and Naval Air Force Pacific Fleet on Thursday, as Vice Adm. David Buss ended a naval career that began at the Naval Academy in July 1974.

Shoemaker moved to Coronado from Norfolk, Va., where he served as commander of Naval Air Force Atlantic Fleet.

He told sailors and friends gathered aboard the USS John C. Stennis that he is ready for the challenges ahead: specifically, maintaining readiness in an uncertain fiscal environment.

Even as sailors fired a 17-gun salute to begin the ceremony and a formation of Blue Angels roared overhead, Navy pilots were launching from the deck of the USS Carl Vinson for airstrikes in Iraq and Syria, Buss said.

And carrier deployments to the Persian Gulf are likely to continue, Shoemaker said. The USS Theodore Roosevelt is preparing to replace the Vinson after a nine-month deployment, and also are expected to stay in the region about nine months.

Sailors are unlikely to see much of a difference from the way Buss did business, Shoemaker said. He wants his commanders to focus on warfighting.

Shoemaker is friendly and has a “sunny disposition,” but is also extremely intelligent and a great leader, said retired Adm. Joseph Prueher, speech speaker at the ceremony.

Organizations flourish under Mike Shoemaker,” he said. Prueher was the executive officer Buss reported to for his first job in the fleet 35 years ago. Prueher joked that he was going to say that then-Ensign Buss was by far the best junior officer he had, but changed his mind when he saw some of the other sailors who had been junior officers at that time in the audience.

“He was awfully good, though,”



JENNIFER HLAD/Stars and Stripes

Vice Adm. Mike Shoemaker, who took command Thursday of Naval Air Forces and Naval Air Force Pacific, shakes hands with friends and fellow naval officers after his change-of-command ceremony aboard the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis at Naval Station North Island, California.

Prueher said. “He makes complicated things simple ... He’s steeped in confidence and competence, but no trace of arrogance.”

Buss praised the Navy and naval aviation in particular, saying the strategic relevance and importance of the force must never be underestimated, and that resources are needed to maintain those capabilities.

“We’re not a fair-weather force — we’re an any-weather force,” he said. Not only does naval aviation answer the nation’s call, Buss

said, “we pick up the phone on the very first ring.”

To close the ceremony, Buss’ son, Lt. j.g. Matthew Buss, read “The Watch,” a poem read at Navy retirements.

“For 36 years, this sailor has stood the watch,” the younger Buss said. “Today, we are here to say: Shipmate, the watch stands relieved, relieved by those you have trained and guided and led ... Dad, I have the watch.”

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School in Bahrain to be closed Sunday

Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — The Department of Defense Dependents Schools-operated Bahrain School will be closed Sunday as part of a three-day period mourning the death of Saudi Arabia’s King Abdullah. All public establishments and ministries in the

Persian Gulf island kingdom will be closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Bahrain, which connected to neighboring Saudi Arabia by a causeway, is a close strategic ally of the Saudi monarch.

U.S. military officials here have urged commands to be flex-

ible with military and civilian personnel with children. Morale, Welfare and Recreation base child care facilities will be open for full day care Sunday, officials announced on the Naval Support Activity Bahrain’s Facebook page.

news@stripes.com

Report: No signs preceded fatal Fort Hood attack

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — An accumulation of stressors that could not have been used to predict violent behavior drove Spc. Ryan Lopez to kill other soldiers on Fort Hood in April 2014, according to Army investigators.

A combination of frustrations — financial, professional and personal — apparently culminated on April 2, 2014, after Lopez argued with fellow soldiers at Fort Hood about his request for time off and how that request was being processed. Minutes later, he drew a semi-automatic handgun and opened fire, killing one soldier and wounding others in his unit’s administrative office.

He then drove around the base and continued shooting at various locations. By the time his rampage was over, he had killed three soldiers and wounded 12 before taking his own life after being confronted by a military police officer.

The service released its official report on the incident, known as a 15-6, on Friday.

“From the available evidence, we find that the cumulative effect of these stressors overwhelmed [Lopez’s] ability to effectively cope with them, and led to his irrational, violent outburst,” the report said.

Army status reports at the time put the number of wounded at 16. After interviewing 169 witnesses and reviewing materials gathered during an earlier criminal investigation, Army investigators said they found no indication in Lopez’s medical and personnel records suggesting that he was likely to commit a violent act.

The soldier wasn’t well known at the base, having recently arrived from a previous assignment. A number of factors limited commanders’ ability to spend time interacting with Lopez before the shooting, according to the report, in part because of “turnover” in leadership, high operational tempo, and manning shortages.

“There were no clear warning signs,” the investigation team

concluded in the report. “Because the unit was unaware and unable to address the variety of stressors in [Lopez’s] life, Fort Hood was not able to prevent the shooting.”

The report said that systemic issues make it difficult to identify dangerous people before they commit violent acts.

“Existing systems may not be capable of identifying all individuals likely to commit violence because there are not any defined or measurable indicators,” the report said. “No single screening method, checklist, or list of behavioral indicators/criteria can reliably predict violent behavior.”

Investigators were unable to pinpoint Lopez’s motive, but a review of his background found several “stressors” that may have affected his state of mind leading up to the killings, including the recent deaths of two close family members, financial difficulties, and medical problems.

The difficulties he encountered in bringing his family to his new duty station and the handling of his PTDD request caused “considerable stress,” according to the report.

However, the investigation team, led by Lt. Gen. Joseph Martz, concluded that no “single event or stressor” caused the shooting.

To help prevent similar incidents from happening, the report makes several recommendations to improve unit leaders’ interaction with new soldiers. It also calls for an examination of whether soldiers should be required to register personally owned firearms with their command.

In the weeks leading up to the shooting, Army officials were unaware that Lopez had recently purchased the handgun that he used to kill and wound fellow soldiers.

“This impacts a commander’s ability to maintain situational awareness over a servicemember and their actions involving a firearm that could be concealed and brought onto the installation for unauthorized purposes,” the report said.

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Afghans protest French satirical newspaper

KABUL, Afghanistan — Hundreds of people protested Friday in two Afghan cities against the French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo over it using a caricature of the Prophet Muhammad on its cover.

The demonstrations in the capital, Kabul, and the western city of Herat took place after Friday prayers. Protesters carried

banners proclaiming: “We love Muhammad.” They also chanted “Death to America, Israel and France” and “Death to the Enemies of Islam.”

A Jan. 7 terrorist attack on Charlie Hebdo’s Paris office killed 12 people. Many across the Muslim world have protested satirical weekly’s first issue after the attack, which shows a drawing of a fearful Prophet Muhammad holding a sign saying “Je suis Charlie.”

From The Associated Press

MILITARY

This time, they said 'I do' in person

Couple married by double proxy in '13

By RAYA ZIMMERMAN
The Winchester (Va.) Star

WINCHESTER, Va. — While U.S. Army 1st Lt. Brett Hlasney was deployed in Kuwait in 2013, he and Rebekah — now his wife — didn't see each other on the day they were married.

Since marrying in person was impossible for the couple — who now live in Frederick County — two contracted lawyers appeared before a judge to tie the knot for them via a double proxy marriage.

"To be honest, we were impatient," Rebekah, 34, said recently. "We knew we wanted to be married (and) had already been married previously (to other people), so we weren't worried about a ceremony on the way."

Last Tuesday — about 21 months after they married — they held a private wedding ceremony without any family or friends present at the George Washington Hotel in downtown Winchester — the same location where they had their first date.

"I feel like I'm married now!" Rebekah, who was dressed in a gold sequin bridal gown, said afterward.

"It's nice to say our vows to each other," said Brett, 37, a company commander in the West Virginia Army National Guard based in



GUNER PERRY, THE WINCHESTER (VA.) STAR/AP

Army 1st Lt. Brett Hlasney wipes a tear from the cheek of his wife, Rebekah Hlasney, as the couple exchange wedding vows Tuesday at the George Washington Hotel in Winchester, Va. Two lawyers appeared before a judge to wed the couple via double proxy in 2013 while Brett Hlasney was deployed.

Camp Dawson, W.Va., who was in uniform. "Prior to this, it was just a legal process."

Brett said since the military doesn't recognize a fiancée as having a legal status, Rebekah would not have been covered for any of his benefits if anything were to happen to him while he was deployed.

"Since we wanted to get married anyway, we thought it would be prudent to take care of it sooner, rather than later," he said.

In order to be legally married without being physically present, Brett said they used a company called S&B Inc.

According to the company's website, marriagebyproxy.com, Montana is the only state where double proxy marriages (where both parties are absent) can be performed.

"While there are no residency requirements, Montana law demands that one member of

the couple must be active in the military. Two designated proxies attend the ceremony to stand in for the bride and groom and the official marriage certificates are then mailed to the married couple."

For a fee, the company took care of the couple's marriage filing and license fees, and an attorney reviewed their forms and documentation.

"Admittedly, this is not very romantic, but it was the one way we could do it while I was deployed," Brett said. "In fact, many other servicemembers have done this."

A handful of states allow single proxy marriages, where one member of the couple attends while a proxy stands in for the absent party.

The Hlasneys were married in May 2013, and Brett returned from deployment that August.

The two said they met while running in a 5K race near Boyce

in January 2012 and began dating in June of that year.

Like many couples in the armed forces, Brett and Rebekah's relationship soon became a long-distance one.

In January 2013, Brett began pre-deployment training at Fort Bliss, Texas.

While on his last break before the deployment to Kuwait, the two met for a hiking trip in Sedona, Ariz., where Brett proposed to Rebekah over Valentine's Day weekend.

"We spoke every day while he was deployed," Rebekah said. "Being separated was the hardest thing I have ever been through ... We Skyped, Facetimed, texted, emailed, carrier pigeoned."

Rebekah, who has lived in Virginia since 1993, has three children from her first marriage.

Brett and Rebekah now have a son together, who is 3½ months old.

Air Force nuke officer dismissed for drug use

The Associated Press

GREAT FALLS, Mont. — A nuclear missile launch officer who pleaded guilty to illegal drug use was dismissed from the Air Force and sentenced to a month of confinement in a Montana jail.

The officer, 2nd Lt. Nicole Dalmazzi of the 341st Missile Wing at Malmstrom Air Force Base, said she took Ecstasy pills five times between January 2013 and February 2014, in part because she was going through a divorce.

Base officials said there was no indication she had used drugs while on duty.

Lt. Col. Lyndell Powell of Joint Lewis-McChord Air Force Base sentenced Dalmazzi on Wednesday.

The drug investigation began in August 2013 at Edwards Air Force Base in California. Investigators examined the cell phones of two airmen and found text messages to or from 11 other Air Force officers at several air bases.

The messages detailed "specific illegal drug use that included synthetic drugs, Ecstasy and amphetamines," according to a report released in March 2014 that looked mainly at missileers' exam cheating and also traced a connection between the drug and cheating issues.

Two of the 11 officers were assigned to Malmstrom, and investigators determined both had used personal cellphones to discuss illegal drug activity as well as answers to routine proficiency tests taken by all missileers.

The cheating scandal implicated nearly 100 nuclear officers at Malmstrom, near Great Falls.

The Air Force fired nine mid-level nuclear commanders and supervisors, allowed a senior commander to resign, and said it would discipline dozens of junior officers in response to the exam-cheating scandal at Malmstrom.

In November, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel ordered top-to-bottom changes in how the U.S. nuclear force is operated and managed.

The 341st Missile Wing operates 150 of the Air Force's 450 Minuteman 3 intercontinental ballistic missiles or ICBMs. Minot Air Force Base, N.D., and F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., also have 150 missiles each.

USS Peleliu decommissioning set for March

Honolulu Star-Advertiser

HONOLULU — The amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu will be decommissioned March 31 after a 35-year career that included supporting operations in Afghanistan.

Another big Navy aircraft-car-

rying ship is being assigned to Pearl Harbor — to ride out retirement as part of the inactive fleet.

The 820-foot San Diego-based amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu will be kept in reserve next to the equally stationary Tarawa in Middle Loch sometime after the Peleliu's decommission-

ing on March 31, the Navy said.

The Tarawa was the first in its namesake class of amphibious ships, and the Peleliu was the last built. The Peleliu will be towed to Hawaii from San Diego.

Commissioned in 1980, the Peleliu was named after the Pacific island battle fought by U.S.

Marines and soldiers in late 1944.

The Peleliu was the first ship to deploy Marines in support of operations in Afghanistan, the Navy said.

The ship carried a crew of more than 1,000 and Marine detachments of more than 1,900.

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NATION

2 days of talks in Cuba end with plans for more

By BRADLEY KLAPPER
AND MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN
The Associated Press

HAVANA — Still at odds over human rights, the United States and Cuba closed two days of historic talks in Havana with some progress toward restoring diplomatic ties after a half-century of estrangement.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the human rights issue, which has previously blocked closer U.S.-Cuban relations, would pose a threat to the new diplomatic process.

"As a central element of our policy, we pressed the Cuban government for improved human rights conditions, including freedom of expression," said Roberta Jacobson, the top U.S. diplomat for Latin America and most senior American official to visit the island country in more than three decades. In Spanish, however, her statement said the U.S. "pressed" Cuba on the issue.

"Cuba has never responded to pressure," Josefin Vidal, Cuba's top diplomat for U.S. affairs, responded.

The comments by Jacobson and Vidal reflected longstanding positions of their governments. And they laid bare the pressures each side faces at home — the U.S., from Republican leaders in Congress and powerful Cuban-American groups and Cuba, from hardliners deeply concerned that rapprochement could undermine the communist system founded by Fidel Castro.

In the first face-to-face talks since last month's declaration of détente, the two countries laid out a detailed agenda for re-establishing full diplomatic relations. Further talks were planned.

Jacobson hailed a morning session as "positive and productive," focusing on the mechanics of converting interest sections into full-fledged embassies headed by ambassadors. But she also spoke of "profound differences" separating the two governments and said embassies by themselves would not mean normalized ties.

"We have to overcome more than 50 years of a relationship that was not based on confidence or

'We have to overcome more than 50 years of a relationship that was not based on confidence or trust.'

Roberta Jacobson
top U.S. diplomat for Latin America

trust," Jacobson told reporters.

Along with human rights, Cuba outlined other obstacles in the relationship. Vidal demanded that Cuba be taken off the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism. However, she praised Obama for easing the U.S. trade embargo and urging the U.S. Congress to lift it entirely.

"It was a first meeting. This is a process," Vidal said. In the next weeks, she said, the U.S. and Cuba will schedule a second round of talks, which may or may not be the time to finalize an agreement.

Issues on Thursday's agenda included ending caps on staff, limits on diplomats' movements and, in the case of the U.S. building, removing guard posts and other Cuban structures along the perimeter.

The U.S. and Cuba also talked about human trafficking, environmental protection, American rules to allow greater telecommunications exports to Cuba and how to coordinate responses to oil spills or Ebola outbreaks.

The need for at least one future round of talks could set back U.S. hopes of reopening the embassies before April's Summit of the Americas, which Obama and Castro are expected to attend.

Still, after so many years of mutual suspicion, each side stressed the importance of the collegial atmosphere in Havana that included long working lunches and a dinner together.

"Look at my face," said Gustavo Machin, Cuba's deputy chief of North American affairs, smiling. "It reflects the spirit in which we've been talking up 'til now."



COURTNEY SACCO, ODESSA (TEXAS) AMERICAN/AP

Fire!

Robert Sullivan throws a snowball Thursday during a snowball fight at the YMCA pond in Odessa, Texas. Snow is in the forecast for much of the Northeast on Saturday, with areas along the Interstate 95 corridor from Philadelphia to Massachusetts expected to receive anywhere from 1 inch to up to 8 inches of snow.

GOP against Obama changes to college savings plans

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's proposal to scale back the tax benefits of college savings accounts is running into opposition from Republicans in Congress who say they have no intention of raising taxes on families trying to save money for their children's education.

Obama's plan would reduce the tax benefits of future contributions to the popular 529 college

savings plans. Current accounts would be grandfathered, so existing funds could still grow and be withdrawn, tax-free.

The administration says all the additional tax revenue would be used to help expand and make permanent a \$2,500 tax credit that families can use for education expenses. Under current law, the tax credit is scheduled to expire at the end of 2017.

Congressional Republicans have embraced the effort to sim-

plify the education tax breaks, but key GOP leaders adamantly oppose scaling back college savings plans.

Contributions to college savings plans are not tax-deductible. But once the money is invested, it can grow and eventually be withdrawn with no tax on the earnings, as long as the money is spent on tuition, fees, books and supplies needed to attend post-secondary school.



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NATION



PHOTOS BY PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP

Anti-abortion demonstrators walk Thursday toward the Supreme Court in Washington, during the annual March for Life. Thousands of anti-abortion demonstrators gathered for an annual march to protest the Supreme Court's landmark 1973 decision that declared a constitutional right to abortion.

As marchers rally in DC, abortion bill advances

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With thousands of abortion protesters swarming the city in their annual March for Life, Republicans muscled broadened abortion restrictions through the House on Thursday after a GOP rebellion forced leaders into an awkward retreat on an earlier version.

By a near party-line 242-179 vote, the House voted to permanently forbid federal funds for most abortion coverage. The bill would also block tax credits for many people and employers who buy abortion coverage under President Barack Obama's health care overhaul.

A White House veto threat and an uncertain fate in the Senate mean the legislation has no realistic chance of becoming law. But on a day when crowds of anti-abortion demonstrators stretched for blocks outside Capitol windows — and hours after the embarrassing GOP stumble on another abortion measure — Thursday's vote let party leaders signal that the Congress they now command is at least trying to end abortion.

The GOP's passage of one bill and the abrupt derailment of another forbidding most late-term abortions underscored the party's perilous balancing act of backing abortion restrictions crucial to conservatives while not alienating women and younger voters wary of such restrictions.

Obama, out West to promote his State of the Union economic agenda, embraced the same 1973



Pro-abortion rights supporters hold up signs in front of the Supreme Court as they wait for the arrival of anti-abortion demonstrators.

Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion that the protesters were vilifying.

Republican House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio praised the marchers in a written statement that also seemed to acknowledge discord among Republicans.

Even so, the GOP sidetracking of the late-term abortion measure sparked grumbling from politically potent allies.

In a sharp statement that singled out Rep. Renee Ellmers, R-N.C., and others, National Right to Life President Carol Tobias criticized GOP dissenters on the late-term bill and warned, "Some of these lawmakers may ultimately conclude that they were ill advised to sacrifice the trust of their pro-life constituents so egregiously."

Ellmers, who has had a strong anti-abortion voting record, was among those who had objected to portions of the late-term abortion bill. Her spokeswoman, Blair Ellis, declined to comment.

On the House floor, a debate

that has raged virtually every year for decades was emotional, as usual.

"I urge my colleagues to stand with the hundreds of thousands of people out on the Mall right now by voting for this bill," said House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif.

Democrats said such talk showed that Republicans were willing to subjugate women's rights to political pandering to the crowds outside.

"Women's rights should not be theater, it shouldn't be drama," said Rep. Steve Cohen, D-Tenn.

The debate took a turn for the personal when Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., referred to "hypocrites on the other side of the aisle who have counseled their own girlfriends to have abortions. It's legal."

Rep. Scott DesJarlais, R-Tenn., a doctor who opposes abortion rights, once urged a patient he was dating to seek an abortion. His aides did not return phone and email requests for comment.

Obama stands ready to veto

President has eye on multiple specific bills

By NANCY BENAC
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama has a telling hit list.

The veto threats that he's issued over the last three weeks are a microcosm of American politics, representing the roiling issues of the day, the power struggle playing out between Congress and the White House, and even the pique between the president and GOP congressional leaders.

Obama, who vetoed just two minor bills over the past six years, has been tossing out veto threats like confetti since Republicans took full control of Congress.

In addition to delivering eight formal veto notices on specific bills under consideration, the president has sounded broader warnings that he'll block legislative efforts that jeopardize his health care law, roll back rules governing Wall Street, reverse his immigration actions or impose new sanctions on Iran.

The list lays bare two competing visions of the proper role of government.

And while there's plenty of political strategy behind what Obama has chosen to single out for a potential veto, he's also "really expressing what his values are and what he believes in," says James Thurber, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies at American

University. Likewise, Thurber says, for all the political positioning going on among congressional Republicans, they've advanced any number of bills in the face of certain veto because they believe in them.

Presidents have prevailed on 96 percent of their more than 2,500 vetoes over the years, with Congress able to muster the votes to override the presidents' objections just 4 percent of the time.

Still, it's smart for Republicans to put forward their ideas to show a clear contrast with the president, says Dan Holler, communications director for the conservative Heritage Action for America. Holler said it's also important to understand that any major legislation that has a chance of being enacted is going to be negotiated with the White House behind the scenes.

"By necessity that will be quiet," says Holler, "because pretty much every single member of the Republican Party ran against Obama and everything he's done over the past six years."

His first two veto threats were issued while the new Congress still was being sworn in, prompting plenty of grousing from Republicans.

"He could have waited a few hours," said House Speaker John Boehner. "Maybe he could have waited a few days. We were taking our oath of office when they were issuing veto threats. Come on."

Members of House GOP sense a new dynamic

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The most conservative lawmakers in the House Republican majority have gotten their way a lot in recent years. That may be starting to change.

A group of more pragmatic lawmakers defected on an immigration vote last week, and this week forced GOP leaders to water down abortion legislation. With the new, fully Republican-led Congress three weeks old, they are serving notice they will no longer keep quiet as their more ideological colleagues push legislation to the right, demand votes on social issues, or court government shutdowns to try to block President Barack Obama.

"There's a growing sense in the conference that we need to get things done here, not just make political statements," said Rep. Carlos Curbelo of Florida, a freshman lawmaker. "We should be focused on the agenda of the

American people and not on taking an infinite amount of symbolic votes that aren't going to get anything done."

Most of these lawmakers are self-described conservatives themselves, but with a practical, business-friendly approach, and without the uncompromising purity of some on the right. Some, like Curbelo, were elected in districts Obama previously won as Republicans posted dramatic mid-term gains in November. They are looking at running for re-election in 2016 in a presidential election year when turnout of Democrats could be higher.

Now they are behind a new dynamic in the House after years when conservatives in the party caused seemed to call the shots.

In part, the change is because there are more of the new lawmakers. And, they say, the stakes are now higher. With the Senate now under GOP control, House-passed legislation actually has a shot at making it to Obama's desk.

NATION



RICK BOWNER/AP

Water Canyon School Principal Darin Thomas stands in a classroom in Hildale, Utah, in December. Most of the families with children in the school were members of Warren Jeffs' sect at one time, Thomas said, and many still follow Jeffs' edict not to send their children to class.

Town once run by polygamist leader is sharply divided

By BRADY MCCOMBS
The Associated Press

HILDALE, Utah — As polygamist leader Warren Jeffs awaited his fate in a Texas prison, he sent an order to his followers on the Utah-Arizona border: Build me a new compound.

Hundreds of men worked around the clock for three months to construct a mammoth, two-story edifice with dozens of rooms. It was encircled by a 15-foot wall of speckled white concrete. The carpets were turquoise, just as he liked.

At the time, in 2010, Jeffs believed God would allow him to return to live with his wives and children in a town of 7,700 at the foot of picturesque red rock cliffs. But that never happened.

Nearly four years after Jeffs was sentenced to life for sexually assaulting underage girls he considered brides, his compound is being converted into a bed and breakfast — a symbol of the changes overtaking the community he once led. Today, the sister cities of Hildale, Utah, and Colorado City, Ariz., are split between loyalists who still believe Jeffs is a victim of religious persecution and defectors who are embracing government efforts to pull the

town into modern society.

Jeffs' compound is being converted by his former bodyguard, Willie Jessop, who for years defended the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, or FLDS. In defiance of some of Jeffs' rules, he now flies the American flag, keeps the gate open and has torn down part of the wall — all meant as clear signals that there is life after Jeffs in this divided place 300 miles south of Salt Lake City.

Down the block from the compound, kids can be heard on the playground at a public school that opened this fall for the first time in 13 years. Around the corner stand abandoned houses where the state recently evicted Jeffs followers who refused to pay \$100-per-month occupancy fees.

Twenty-four other families are receiving deeds to their homes — a first for a community where nearly all the houses have belonged to sect leaders since 1942.

Still, those small changes are overshadowed by indications that Jeffs' flock remains large and loyal. The Hildale and Colorado City town councils are filled with Jeffs loyalists. The 190 children at the Hildale public school are only a fraction of the town's es-

timated 1,200 school-aged kids. Many sect members still follow Jeffs' edict not to send their children to class.

Women and girls wearing prairie dresses with up-do hairstyles can be seen around town, pumping gas and driving tractors. They often run and hide when they see outsiders. Men drive trucks with windows tinted so darkly you can't tell who is inside.

Though he's been in jail in Utah or Texas continually since 2006, Jeffs is believed to still rule the FLDS through letters and phone calls from prison. One of his brothers, Lyle Jeffs, is here and makes sure Jeffs' commandments are carried out. To his followers, roughly estimated to be about 6,000, he is a prophet who speaks for God and can do no wrong.

"To have it exposed that the leader was engaged in such horrific, immoral acts was a really dark place not only for me and my family but the entire community," said Jessop, who left in 2011. "That's why you see such a fractured situation as people try to come to grips with what he's in prison for. It's easier for people to put it under religious persecution than the reality of why he's actually in there."

Leading NY politician held in bribery case

By TOM HAYS
AND DAVID KLEPPER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York and its Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo start this year's legislative session facing the latest taint on its already tarnished reputation for government ethics with the arrest of Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, who bent state government to his will for more than 20 years as one of the state's most powerful and canny politicians.

The 70-year-old Democrat was

taken into custody Thursday by the FBI on federal charges that he took nearly \$4 million in pay-offs and kickbacks, crimes that carry up to 100 years in prison and could cost him his political seat. He was released on \$200,000 bail.

Cuomo lamented the added "negativity" associated with state government as good-government groups renewed calls for him to do more and critics accused him of flagging on past anti-corruption initiatives.

U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara

said Silver, a lawyer by training, lined up jobs at two firms and then accepted large sums of money over more than a decade in exchange for using his "titanic" power to do political favors. The money was disguised as "referral fees," Bharara said.

Silver, who seemed unfazed in court, did not enter a plea.

"I'm confident that after a full hearing and due process I'll be vindicated on the charges," said Silver, who even paused on his way out of court to sign a sketch artist's rendering of the scene.

Measles cases put spotlight on anti-vaccine push

By ALICIA CHANG
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A major measles outbreak traced to Disneyland has brought criticism down on the small-but-vocal movement among parents to opt out of vaccinations for their children.

In a rash of cases that public health officials are rushing to contain, at least 70 people in six states and Mexico have fallen ill since mid-December, most of them from California. The vast majority of those who got sick had not gotten the measles-mumps-rubella, or MMR, vaccine.

While still a scourge in many corners of the world, measles has been all but eradicated in the U.S. since 2000 because of vaccinations. But the virus has made a comeback in recent years, in part because of people obtaining personal belief exemptions from rules that say children must get their shots to enroll in school.

Others have delayed getting their children vaccinated because they still believe now-discredited research linking the measles vaccine to autism.

"Some people are just incredibly selfish" by skipping shots, said Dr. James Cherry, a pediatric disease expert at the University of California, Los Angeles.

As cases mount, several newspapers have criticized the anti-vaccine movement.

Measles "is a disease that has been beaten by modern medicine. That makes it all the more frustrating that anti-science stubbornness has proven, in the case of the Disneyland-related measles, that when it comes to contagious diseases, it's a small world after all," the Los Angeles Times said in an editorial last week.

Barbara Loe Fisher, director of the National Vaccine Information Center, a Virginia-based nonprofit that favors letting parents decide whether to vaccinate, said, "I don't think it's wise or responsible to blame" unvaccinated people for the Disney outbreak. She noted that a small number of those stricken had been fully vaccinated.

Health authorities believe the outbreak was triggered by a measles-stricken visitor to one of the Disney parks who brought the virus from abroad last month.

As one of the world's biggest tourist destinations, Disney was a perfect spot for the virus to spread, with large numbers of babies too young to be vaccinated and lots of visitors from countries that do not require measles shots. The disease has since spread beyond Disneyland.



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NATION



Scott Whitlock walks near a stretch of buckled sidewalk while helping his parents move out of their earthquake-damaged home in Napa, Calif.

PHOTOS BY RICK LOOMIS, LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

LIVING ON A FAULT LINE

SURPRISE FRACTURE ZONE IN CALIF. WINE COUNTRY TRIGGERS EARTHQUAKE STUDY OF REGION

BY RONG-GONG LIN II
AND ROSANNA XIA
Los Angeles Times

WHEN A magnitude-6.0 earthquake hit California's wine country this summer, scientists rushed to California Highway Patrol helicopters to survey the scene.

The results were surprising. The earthquake tore up to the surface, producing a 9-mile-long scar that sliced through vineyards, asphalt and even homes. A buried earthquake fault had awoken along a trail never before documented or mapped by scientists, stunning homeowners who found houses spun off their foundations and broken, with one side of the home higher than the other.

It marked the first time since the 1971 Sylmar earthquake that a temblor in California has caused surface rupture in a residential area.

Now, the Napa County area is becoming a laboratory for scientists trying to better understand how faults work and the damage they can create.

"We are going to be taking a really hard look now," said state geologist John Parrish. "Everyone should always be aware of where all of these faults are when they're building."

Homeowners in one Napa neighborhood said they had no idea they lived on top of an earthquake fault. The closest, previously mapped fault was farther away and considered by state officials to be too old to be active, last rupturing more than 11,000 years ago.

But inactive faults can awaken. And faults can exist even if there are no clues. Evidence of recent movement can be washed away, or, as in the case of this section of Browns Valley, buried deep underneath soil deposits eroding from the mountains. And scientists often have limited access to dig trenches and study possible faults in areas filled with homes that were built decades ago.

Scientists had their suspicions that a fault could be buried in this area of Napa, but held back from mapping it because there was not enough evidence.

"We can't go around just doing it on a gut feeling," Parrish said. "We draw the lines with the best information that we have available."

So it took an earthquake to answer questions scientists and homeowners didn't even know they had.

The fault began moving directly underneath the home of Tim and Ann Whitlock around 3:20 a.m. on Aug. 24, a Sunday.

They awoke to the earthquake fault rupturing, as one block of earth pushed past another.

Suddenly, what was once a solid

foundation fractured in two. It sounded like one big explosion. The western half of the house moved 9 inches to the north. The eastern half jumped, and ended up more than half an inch higher than the western half.

"Ann and I just grabbed each other and screamed," said Tim Whitlock, a veteran of the Vietnam War who served 33 years in the U.S. Air Force and 28 years as an American Airlines pilot. "It was one of those things when you have no control whatsoever. And you're shaking. And you're thinking at any moment, the house could come apart and flatten. That's a terrifying thing," Whitlock said.

The damage was so bad that

the city of Napa ordered the Whitlocks out of their house.

But neighboring homes suffered virtually no structural damage, underscoring how different it could be if the home is just a few feet away from the fault. There were only shattered dishes and fallen shelves at the home of next-door neighbor Dolores Hibbert, 86, she said.

Bill Bolton, 70, who shares his backyard with the Whitlocks, saw the fault split their backyard fence but skirt into his side yard, avoiding his home before heading into the street, rupturing a water pipe and splitting apart another neighbor's lawn.

Said Whitlock: "Everywhere to the east and west, they got the rumble. And we got the damage."

Evidence is now emerging that

the fault system that caused the earthquake had perhaps three to four large quakes before this one, said Tim Dawson, an engineering geologist for the California Geological Survey.

The agency has begun to officially map and zone this section of the West Napa fault, which could restrict or limit future construction in the areas where scientists pinpoint the fault.

The fault kept moving even after the earthquake and aftershocks stopped, further complicating the region's recovery. It's the first time this phenomenon has been observed extensively in a highly populated area in California.

The fault movement was easy to see on Highway 12, where the double yellow line in the middle of the road grew farther apart from each other in the hours and days after the earthquake. Scientists drove a truck up and down the Napa Valley, using lasers to measure the "afterslip" shifting roadways and vineyards.

The work led to an afterslip forecast — the first of its kind. The earth could move between 2 and 6 inches in the next several years, said Ken Hudnut, a geophysicist for the U.S. Geological Survey. Scientists will be updating the forecast in February.

Scientists hope such a prediction would help homeowners strategize about repairs, and it could prove useful in future quakes. A good prediction could tell a train commuter system or water utility to hold off on immediate repairs because of anticipated fault movement, or plan for multiple repair jobs over several years.



A magnitude-6.0 earthquake damaged buildings and caused several injuries when it struck the Napa, Calif., area on Aug. 24.

WAR ON TERRORISM

US, Iraq gearing up for campaign to retake Mosul

Stars and Stripes

The U.S. and Iraq are preparing for an assault by summer to retake Mosul, selecting and training military units and cutting supply lines to Islamic State militants who control Iraq's second-largest city, the top American commander in the Middle East told the Wall Street Journal.

Gen. Lloyd Austin, head of U.S. Central Command, said the campaign against Islamic State has inflicted significant damage. Opposing forces have reclaimed about 300 square miles of territory in Iraq and killed some 6,000 members of the Sunni radical group, and eliminated about half its leadership.

The Journal wrote that U.S. officials say they now have a good estimate of the current number of Islamic State forces, al-

though they were once estimated at up to 14,000. Mosul, a city of 600,000, fell to Islamic State militants in June at the start of its blitz across northwestern Iraq.

A coalition of Iraq's most experienced military forces, including Kurdish peshmarga and U.S.-trained Sunni fighters, would be ready by the spring or early summer to begin the offensive to retake Mosul, Austin, the chief architect of the international military campaign against the Islamic State, is reported as saying.

Speaking at his headquarters in Tampa, Fla., Austin said the U.S. must wait for Iraq's forces to be ready before moving.

"If we did things alone or with some of the other allies on the ground, it could move faster," he said. "But the Iraqis have to do this themselves."

Austin told the Journal he had not decided whether to recommend that U.S. ground troops accompany local units pushing into Mosul, but emphasized the military would "do what it takes."

He said there are signs that Islamic State is having trouble finding new fighters — noting their recruiting of child soldiers and trying to forcibly conscript fighters in Mosul. The group "is beginning to experience a manpower issue," Austin said.

In talks with British Prime Minister David Cameron earlier Thursday, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said his forces needed more ammunition, equipment and training, a spokeswoman for Cameron said.

Abadi was in London for an conference to discuss the fight against Islamic State.

Secretary of State John Kerry told the conference the support for Iraqi efforts against Islamic State wouldn't fail for want of weapons or ammunition. Kerry said a "very significant" number of M16 rifles were on the way.

The Wall Street Journal reported that U.S. officials believe the people of Mosul will support the Iraqi forces, but they expect a tough fight, with the possibility of booby-trapped houses and roadside bombs.

The U.S. has begun training new Iraqi security forces at four sites. There are about 1,000 Iraqis at the al-Asad base in Anbar province, 1,800 at the Basmaya base south of Baghdad, 1,300 at Taji base to the north of the capital, and 300 Kurds in Irbil — the capital of the semiautonomous Kurdistan region.



A passer-by in Tokyo on Friday watches a news program reporting on two Japanese hostages, Kenji Goto, left, and Haruna Yukawa, whose lives have been threatened by the Islamic State group.

PM vows to save Japanese hostages

By JON GAMBRELL
AND MARI YAMAGUCHI
The Associated Press

CAIRO — The Islamic State group threatened to kill two Japanese hostages unless they receive \$200 million in 72 hours, directly demanding the ransom Tuesday from Japan's premier during his visit to the Middle East. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe vowed to save the men, saying, "Their lives are the top priority."

Abe and other Japanese officials declined to discuss whether they'd pay the ransom for captives Kenji Goto and Haruna Yukawa, though their armed forces generally only operate in a self-defensive capacity at home. Their kidnapping also immediately recalled the 2004 beheading of a Japanese backpacker in Iraq, carried out by the Islamic State group's predecessor over the U.S.-led war there.

Tuesday's video, identified as being made by the Islamic State group's al-Furqan media arm and posted on militant websites associated with the extremist group, mirrored other hostage threats it has made. Japanese of-

ficials said they would analyze the tape to verify its authenticity, though Abe offered no hesitation as he pledged to free the men while speaking to journalists in Jerusalem.

"It is unforgivable," said Abe as he wrapped up a six-day visit to the Middle East. He added: "Extremism and Islam are completely different things."

Abe said he would send Yasuhide Nakayama, a deputy foreign minister, to Jordan to seek the country's support and to resolve the hostage crisis. The premier also said the Israeli government, which Japan promised Sunday to cooperate with on counterterrorism, are sharing information to aid in the hostage crisis. The Israeli prime minister's office declined to comment.

Speaking in Tokyo, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga also declined to say whether Japan would pay the ransom.

"If true, the act of threat in exchange of people's lives is unforgivable and we feel strong indignation," Suga told journalists. "We will make our utmost effort to win their release as soon as possible."

Hagel: Don't use body count to judge Islamic State battle

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel warned Thursday against using body counts as a metric to judge the U.S. campaign against the Islamic State militant group.

For much of the Vietnam War, the U.S. military pursued an attrition strategy and measured success against the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese by adding up the number of enemy fighters killed in action. Body counts were a key feature of after-action reports, and U.S. officials would announce daily tallies.

The strategy largely ignored the political situation on the ground in Vietnam and the United States, and communist forces were able to take over South Vietnam after American leaders withdrew U.S. troops in the face of anti-war sentiment at home.

For months, the U.S. has been waging an air war against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. In an interview published Thursday by Al Arabiya News Channel, U.S. ambassador to Iraq Stuart Jones reportedly claimed that more than 6,000 Islamic State fighters have been killed in coalition airstrikes.

Secretary of State John Kerry on Thursday told reporters that the strikes have inflicted a lot of damage on the group.

"The measure here is: What are we getting done?" Kerry said after meeting in London with the Iraqi prime minister and British foreign secretary. "We thought it was necessary to meet now to take stock of where we have been in the last months."

America's top diplomatic said, "We are taking out [Islamic State] fighters in the thousands thus far" and "50 percent of the top command has been eliminated."

During a Thursday press conference at the Pentagon, Hagel, a Vietnam veteran, was asked to confirm those figures. He said the number of militants killed was in the "thousands" and "some" of the group's leaders had been taken out, but he cautioned against reading too much into that.

"I don't think it is the [definitive] measurement," he said. "I was in a war where there were a lot of body counts every day, and we lost that war."

He said it was important to look at other factors, such as: whether the enemy is on the defensive; whether they're having difficulty recruiting fighters; whether their supply lines have been cut; and whether there has been a distortion of their command and control networks.

Hagel said the U.S. and its coalition partners are having success on all those fronts.

"These are also the metrics that you look at to how much progress you're making in a war," he said.

The Pentagon chief also pushed back against criticism leveled by the Iraqi prime minister, Haider al-Abadi, that the U.S. and its foreign partners weren't

'I don't think it is the [definitive] measurement. I was in a war where there were a lot of body counts every day, and we lost that war.'

Secretary of Defense
Chuck Hagel,
a Vietnam
veteran



doing enough to help his forces.

"The international coalition is very slow in its support and training of the [Iraqi] army," Abadi told journalists in Cairo last week, according to Al Arabiya News.

Hagel disagreed and described Abadi's comments as "unhelpful."

He pointed out that the U.S. has provided more than 1,500 Hellfire missiles, 250 Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles, and tens of thousands of small arms plus ammunition to the Iraqi security forces and Kurdish peshmarga.

The Pentagon has deployed more than 1,500 troops to Iraq to train, advise and assist Iraqi forces battling the Islamic State, and other nations are contributing trainers as well. Three of the four training camps identified for the effort are up and running, and the fourth will be soon, according to Hagel.

"We have a coalition of over 60 countries that have come together to help Iraq. And I think the [Iraqi] prime minister might want to be a little more mindful of that," Hagel said.

The head of the Defense Department said that, from a political perspective, it's the Iraqi government that isn't moving quickly enough to unite Iraq's various political and sectarian factions.

"This isn't about the United States," Hagel said. "The one defining metric of success" is for Abadi "to form a more inclusive government, to allow all the elements of his country, Sunni, Shia, Kurds, to have ... a real role, not just a paper role, in governing."

That isn't an easy task, Hagel said, but "the acceleration of that is going to really determine ... the future of Iraq."

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WORLD

US threat strategy hit hard by Yemen

Obama had cited country as a model in fight against al-Qaida militants

By CRAIG WHITLOCK
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The White House's strategy for fighting al-Qaida in Yemen — repeatedly presented as a model by President Barack Obama — was left in tatters Thursday by the resignation of the man who personally approved U.S. drone strikes in the country and the collapse of its central government.

U.S. officials struggled to sort out a melange of reports about who, if anyone, is in charge in Yemen. The prospect of continued chaos cast doubt on the viability of the Obama administration's counterterrorism policy for Yemen and whether it can still count on local help against al-Qaida.

"A dangerous situation just went from bad to worse with grave implications for our counterterrorism efforts," said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., a member of the House Intelligence Committee. "Our relationship with the Yemen government has been vital in confronting [al-Qaida] and keeping the pressure on its leadership, and every effort must be made to continue that partnership."

As recently as September, Obama had cited his Yemen strategy as a template for confronting jihadist threats in other parts of the U.S. strategy has been to rely on drones to provide surveillance over Yemen and launch scores of airstrikes against suspected al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) targets.

Flown by the CIA and the military's Joint Special Operations Command, the drones are based outside Yemen, but U.S. officials have relied until now on the Yemeni government's authorization to conduct the airstrikes.

If order and a friendly regime are not restored soon in Yemen, the White House may be confronted with a difficult choice: keep flying the drones even if they violate Yemeni sovereignty, or halt the operations and ease up on al-Qaida. The dilemma is exacerbated by the fact that the CIA and U.S. military's targeting decisions are largely dependent on Yemeni government intelligence collected from sources on the ground.

"I have a lot of sympathy for anybody trying to make a policy on Yemen at the moment," said Stephen Seche, who served as U.S. ambassador there from 2007 until 2010.

If a power vacuum persists or no reliable partner emerges to

take charge of the government, he added, "I don't think we'll just want to continue running operations like we have done the last several years."

Despite widespread anger among Yemenis about the drones, the Obama administration had received a green light for the airstrikes from Yemeni President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who took power in 2012 with Washington's backing and quickly became a firm ally against AQAP.

In an interview with The Washington Post several months after taking office, Hadi said he personally approved every drone strike and praised their effectiveness. "Every operation, before taking place, they take permission from the president," he said at the time.

On Thursday, Hadi submitted his resignation, along with the rest of his Cabinet, under pressure from Houthi rebel forces who have taken increasing control of the capital, Sanaa.

One of Hadi's advisers, Sultan al-Ahwani, said the president quit after the Houthis tried to strip him of virtually all of his powers, including his authority to coordinate drone strikes with U.S. officials.

Although the Houthis are hostile toward AQAP, they have been just as hostile toward the United States.

"The Houthis will refuse to cooperate with the United States in carrying out drone attacks," said Ali Shantoor, a retired Yemeni brigadier general. "They've always said that they reject the United States' control and its violation of the sovereignty of the country."

In Washington, U.S. officials dodged questions about whether they had been in contact with Hadi or how his departure will affect counterterrorism operations.

"Obviously, we're not in a position — and I don't think any of you are, either — to assess what it means at this point in time," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki told reporters.

The Pentagon has never fully disclosed how many military personnel have been deployed to Yemen as trainers or liaison officers.

On Thursday, Maj. Curt Kellogg, a military spokesman, declined to say how many U.S. personnel remained in Yemen or if their numbers had decreased recently because of the upheaval there.

Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-



Hadi



HANI MOHAMMED/AP

Houthi Shiite Yemeni carry coffins of fellow men killed during recent clashes with presidential guard forces, during their funeral procession Friday in Sanaa, Yemen.

Protesters take to Yemen streets

The Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — Thousands of protesters demonstrated Friday across Yemen, some supporting the Shiite rebels who seized the capital and others demanding the country's south secede after the nation's president and Cabinet resigned.

President Abed Rabbo Hadi, a U.S. ally in its campaign against Yemen's local al-Qaida branch, stepped down Thursday with his Cabinet over the pressures by Houthi rebels who demanded a bigger share of government power. A faction of southerners, who oppose the Shiite power grab and live in what was a separate country until 1990, have seized the opportunity to press their case for independence.

In Sanaa, which Houthis seized during their offensive in September, thousands of supporters converged on the capital's airport road. They raised green flags and banners proclaiming their slogan — "Death to America, death to Israel, a curse on the Jews and victory to Islam" — a variation of a popular Iranian slogan often

chanted by Shiite militants in Iraq and supporters of Lebanon's Hezbollah.

The Houthis are Zaydis, a Shiite minority that makes up about a third of Yemen's population. Their movement began as a small insurgency in Yemen's northern Shiite heartland which battled the Yemeni army for years until 2010. After President Ali Abdullah Saleh's ouster in 2012, he was widely suspected to have formed an alliance with his former foes and of helping the Houthis make military advances across the country.

Critics of the Houthis charge that they are backed and financed by mostly Shiite Iran, a charge that they deny. In return, the Houthis accuse Hadi of being in league with al-Qaida. The local al-Qaida affiliate — which has been declared by the U.S. government the most active and dangerous such group in the word — also bitterly opposes the Houthis and has battled them on several fronts.

Checkpoints manned by Houthi fighters brandishing

Kalashnikov assault rifles and pickup trucks mounted with anti-aircraft guns dotted the capital. Houthi militias also remained outside Hadi's house, holding him under a de facto house arrest. Gunmen also continued besieging houses of government ministers.

In the south, thousands protested Friday in Yemeni city of Aden, raising the flag of the formerly independent Southern Yemen over Aden airport and the local security headquarters building, witnesses said.

Representatives of the Houthis, who also refer to themselves as Ansar Allah, told The Associated Press on Thursday that the group welcomes the resignations and are currently "brainstorming" different scenarios for a next step.

Among these scenarios, one official said, is the formation of a "salvation council" with representatives from the north and the south. But that initiative is likely to be opposed by Southern political leaders who are bitterly opposed to the Houthi takeover of the capital and several other major Yemeni cities.

Texas, the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said Thursday that U.S. surveillance over Yemen has decreased in recent months because of increased demand for drones and other aircraft to fight the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

"Yemen's a pretty big mess," Thornberry said.

"You have this big, very difficult crisis with [the Islamic State], so that necessarily means there is less attention that can be paid to Yemen and other places. And yet Yemen is the place from which the most serious threats against our homeland have emanated."

On Thursday, a senior State Department official said the U.S.

Embassy in Sanaa would further reduce its American staffing "in response to the changing security situation in Yemen."

The official said the embassy would remain open.

Washington Post staff writer Hugh Naylor in Beirut and Ali al-Mujahid in Sanaa contributed to this report.

WORLD

King: New monarch says Arab nations' need for solidarity is 'dire'

FROM FRONT PAGE

But a more immediate threat are militants from the Islamic State. As the group spread across Iraq last summer and fall, Saudi Arabia started building a 600-mile fence aimed at keeping militants out. The Saudis are adding razor wire fencing, silent alarms, watchtowers armed with video, along with thermal and night vision surveillance.

Work on the wall started in September 2014 but plans for the project were initially drafted in 2006 at the height of the Iraqi civil war. But the Islamic State's advances prompted fear in Riyadh of a violent overspill and the project was given the go-ahead.

State television aired images of the funeral prayer ahead of Abdullah's burial in Riyadh's al-Oud cemetery in an area reserved for royals. Hundreds gathered outside the cemetery, which was guarded by security officials. One billboard in the capital with Abdullah's image said: "To God we belong and to God we shall return."

Leaders from around the world expressed condolences.

President Barack Obama described the late Saudi king as a candid leader who had the courage of his convictions, including "his steadfast and passionate belief in the importance of the U.S.-Saudi relationship as a force for stability and security in the Middle East and beyond."

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel called him a man of "tremendous character," saying Abdullah was a "committed friend and partner of the United States. And he was a powerful voice for tolerance, moderation, and peace — in the Islamic world and across the globe."

In his first speech as king, Salman also made an oblique reference to the chaos gripping the greater Middle East as the extremist Islamic State group now holds a third of both Iraq and Syria.

"The Arab and the Islamic nations are in dire need of solidarity and cohesion," the king said.

A royal decree affirmed Crown Prince Muqrin, 69, as Salman's successor. After Muqrin, Salman named Interior Minister Prince



SAUDI PRESS AGENCY/AP

Saudi Arabia's newly enthroned King Salman, right, talks Friday with Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during the funeral of Saudi Arabia's half-brother, King Abdullah, at the Imam Turki bin Abdullah mosque in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Mohammed bin Nayef, 55, as deputy crown prince, making him second in line to the throne. Mohammed is the first grandson of Saudi Arabia's founder, King Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, to be named as a future heir.

In a nationally televised speech, Salman promised to continue the policies of his predecessors.

For more than six decades, power has passed among the sons of Abdul-Aziz, from brother to brother, since his death in 1953. But ranks of that generation, largely in their 70s and 80s, are thinning.

The decision to name Mohammed as deputy crown prince helps alleviate uncertainty over which of Abdul-Aziz's hundreds of grandsons would ascend to the throne. It also highlighted the Al Saud family's ability to coalesce around thorny issues of succession to ultimately preserve the stability of their rule.

Salman on Friday also appoint-



HASSAN AMMAR/AP

King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, right, welcomes Syrian President Bashar Assad in the Saudi capital Riyadh in March 2009.

ed his son, Prince Mohammed, as defense minister. The prince, in his 30s, was head of his father's

royal court when Salman was crown prince and is among his most favored sons.

NATO sees signs that rebel offensive is possible in Ukraine

By MYSYSLAV CHERNOV

The Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine — Signs emerged Friday of a major rebel offensive booming in eastern Ukraine, which has seen a surge in fighting and deadly attacks despite diplomatic efforts to craft a lasting peace deal.

One separatist leader said his pro-Russian rebels have launched a multi-pronged offensive and won't join further peace talks — but left unclear whether they would respect this week's agreement to pull back heavy weapons from the front line.

A top NATO official said the

Russian-backed rebels in eastern Ukraine have been beefed up and have pushed farther west. U.S. Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove said air defense and electronic warfare equipment have been detected in the area that, in the past, coincided with the incursion of Russian troops into Ukraine.

Russia insists that it does not support the rebels, but Western military officials say the sheer number of heavy weapons under rebel control belies that claim.

The U.N. human rights agency, meanwhile, raised its estimate Friday of the conflict's overall death toll to nearly 5,100 since April due to the escalation of fighting.

A pro-Russian insurgency flared up in April in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions in eastern Ukraine following Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, and in May they declared independence from the central government in Kiev.

Separatist leader Alexander Zakharchenko said rebel fighters will fight for more territory and were advancing in several directions to push Ukrainian forces back to the edge of the Donetsk region. Donetsk, the largest rebel-held city, was hit this week with mortar attacks and fighting over its war-wrecked airport that killed at least 30 people.

"Attempts to talk about a ceasefire will no longer be undertaken by our side," Zakharchenko said.

Any rebel advances would further undermine a tentative peace deal forged this week in Berlin at a meeting of foreign ministers from Russia, Ukraine, France and Germany. Those negotiations concluded with an agreement to uphold a demarcation line defined in September.

The plan calls for Ukrainian troops and Russian-backed separatists to pull back their heavy armaments 9 miles on either side of the line, although there was no agreement on a withdrawal of troops.

Battles intensified last weekend

Salman served as defense minister since 2011. That made him the head of the military as Saudi Arabia joined the United States and other Arab countries in carrying out airstrikes in Syria in 2014 against the Islamic State group, the Sunni militant group that the kingdom began to see as a threat to its own stability.

Salman takes the helm at a time when the ultraconservative Muslim kingdom and oil power-hungry is trying to navigate social pressures from a burgeoning youth population — over half the population of 20 million is younger than 25 — seeking jobs and increasingly testing boundaries of speech on the Internet, where criticism of the royal family is rife.

The new king, in a departure from past monarchs, used his Twitter account to send a message to his 1.3 million followers.

"I ask God to ensure my success to serve our dear people and realize their hopes, and to preserve our nation and society's security and stability, and to protect it from all evil," the message read.

The country is also facing plunging global oil prices, which forms the backbone of its economy.

Salman's health has been a concern. He suffered at least one stroke that has left him with limited movement in his left arm.

He is among the so-called "Sudeiri Seven" — seven sons born to one of Abdul-Aziz's most favored wives, Hussen bint Ahmad Sudeiri. The seven brothers were seen as a center of power within the family. Abdullah's predecessor King Fahd, was among the seven, as were Abdullah's first two crown princes, Sultan and Nayef, who died in 2011 and 2012, respectively, before reaching the throne.

Prince Mohammed is the son of Salman's brother Nayef. Like his father, Nayef, who was a formidable power in Saudi Arabia until his death in 2012, Mohammed is head of the powerful Interior Ministry that oversees the country's police. Mohammed was the target of a botched assassination attempt by al-Qaida militants in 2009.

over Donetsk airport, a gleaming showcase for the Euro 2012 soccer championship that has been reduced to piles of rubble and steel beams by months of clashes. Rebels eventually took control of its terminal, although fighting is still going on in nearby areas. At the international economic forum in Davos, Switzerland, a Russian deputy prime minister vowed that Moscow would not be cowed by the sanctions the West has imposed upon Russia for its actions in Ukraine.

The Russian currency has lost half its value in recent months from the double blow of sanctions and a plunge in world oil prices.

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OPINION

Even a lame duck can fly with 1 wing

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

President Barack Obama, intent upon disproving notions that he's just a lame duck, strode confidently before Congress on Tuesday night and demonstrated his determination to fly using just his left wing.

For one hour and one minute, he actually seemed to be flying. Buoyed by his soaring rhetoric and new uplifting polls, this left-winged president seemed able to circle the Capitol dome.

But that of course only left him right back where he started. Which made it clear to all of us — and probably even his White House strategists — that his proposals will never fly with just a left wing to power them.

So you might think that reality would be terribly frustrating for a proud president. But that would be true only if you are assuming his address was really just about enacting all of his powerfully stated progressive ideas that are laden with middle-class populism.

But of course his speech wasn't all about enacting those ideas that are aimed at helping middle-class families cope with daily problems of raising children and helping Middle Americans get educations so they can find jobs.

My guess is that the president wasn't floating his ideas as dome-circling exercises but as his own presidential legacy laps.

He wants to be known as the president who proposed a soaring agenda of progressive ideas designed to help America's middle class that is being left farther behind America's richest 1 percent. New statistics show the economy is growing and creating jobs at a rate not seen in the 21st century. And (guess what!) polls are now showing

Obama approval ratings are climbing as well.

So even if left-wing power can never get Obama's new proposals off the ground in the new Republican Congress, Obama now clearly hopes history will herald him as a president who at least proposed and pushed progressive ideas based on core Middle American values and goals.

What are those? Helping families with two wage earners afford child care. Making two-year community college educations cost-free. And paying for all that by closing tax deduction loopholes and raising taxes for America's richest 1 percent.

All are rooted in middle-class values and goals. All of them could have been the intellectual property of a Republican think tank visionary. (As Obama's health reform was.)

Interestingly, Obama twice pointed out specifics he will "veto" if the Republican Congress votes to repeal Obamacare, roll back new restrictions on banks, or reverse immigration policies without comprehensively fixing the broken system.

But he carefully didn't say the same about the controversial Keystone pipeline, which conservatives champion and some progressives oppose. Instead, he used Keystone as a rationale for doing more, saying: "Let's set our sights higher than a single oil pipeline. Let's pass a bipartisan infrastructure plan that could create more than 30 times as many jobs per year."

This is a classic Washington controversy — deceptively blown out of proportion by both sides. I'm for building the pipeline (so is Bill Clinton), but I haven't fallen for either side's exaggerations.

Not the enviro-liberals' doomsday alarms: Yes, environmental damage might result from future pipeline leaks; but with-

out a pipeline, accidents during truck and rail transporting of oil from Canada to a Gulf of Mexico refinery could also cause environmental damage.

Not the conservatives' job-creating cons: Republicans wildly exaggerated Keystone's job-creating. The thousands of jobs it will initially create will almost all disappear after it is built in two years. Only an estimated 35 to 50 pipeline jobs will be permanent.

That's why it wasn't merely frustrating but infuriating to hear the same old con voiced by Tuesday night's designated Republican State of the Union responder. Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, just three weeks on the job, shamefully cited "the Keystone jobs bill" (no, it's a pipeline bill) as her big idea of "serious job-creating ideas you deserve."

Unfortunately, Republicans wasted their official response by failing to deliver a Grand Old Party alternative agenda. But one exists. A group of conservative think tank congressmen called themselves the "Young Guns" published a new book, titled "Room to Grow," that's filled with new conservative ideas; it can be found on the group's online IG Network.

So Tuesday night belonged to a lame duck Democrat who was badly outnumbered in the congressmen club chamber and was empowered only by his own left wing. Yet he delivered a powerful appeal to America's struggling middle class.

In politics, where timing often trumps even truth, Obama should be asking himself two questions: Why didn't I make that speech six months earlier? Or maybe even six years earlier?

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington Journalist, author and TV documentary executive.

Cutesy speech omitted entitlement crisis

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

Unbelievable. President Barack Obama, among the most divisive presidents in our recent history, gives an also divisive State of the Union speech, taking credit for things he did not do, producing a laundry list of mostly bad things he plans and at the end sounding oh, so nice. This country of ours? We're a "tight-knit family." Republicans? He wants to get along with them. To repeat a question he asked, really?

If Republicans in control of Congress try to amend the Dodd-Frank financial fix law, a confused, micromanaging conglomeration that left even the bureaucratic cops on the beat confused, he will veto it, he said. Maybe you want to amend some of his unilateralist overreaching on immigration? Another veto, by golly! There are parts of Obamacare that are almost sure to cost Americans jobs, but no tinkering, folks. Just live and let live, OK? You hear me, OK?

The main thing wrong with the speech was something besides his antagonism parading itself as conciliation, however. It was his basic misperception of where we sat today. "The shadow of crisis has passed," Obama said, adding that we have "a growing economy, shrinking deficits, bustling industry and booming energy production."

Therefore, he added in so many words, the time has come for still more intervention with businesses, more redistribution of wealth, higher taxes on some and lots more government spending on this, that and the other, all supposedly in the name of a middle class that will someday disappear if he actually gets away with doing these things.

The fact is that there is a crisis that has not passed, namely a debt that is definitely not shrinking but growing every minute and due to grow even more along with higher deficits once again within the decade. The chief issue is entitlements — Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and Obamacare. We do not have the funding mechanisms in place to pay for the promises, especially as more and more baby boomers retire, and the question is not just one of billions of dollars, but trillions. Someday, someone will have to pay it if we do not start to fix things now, namely our children and grandchildren. It will absolutely ruin them.

Some say, Oh, well, the fixing will be easy, a tax here, a tax there, some future spending cuts, but no — without first restructuring entitlements, it would take taxes of a kind that would be egregiously high for everyone and spending cuts that would leave little in the discretionary part of the budget standing. As for the restructuring, it could be done, and without terrible hurt,

least of all for the most disadvantaged, but politically, it is no small feat.

For instance, Social Security Disability is due to run out of funding in 2016. Some say we should just switch some funds from Social Security for the elderly to this program, but that worsens the plight of the retirement program and is just a temporary fix for the disability program. House Republicans are saying we should look at trooper reforms addressing the truck and train, but the response from Democrats is what you always hear when common sense enters the picture: demagogic, catastrophe-breeding screeches about how recipients would be hurt.

In the final analysis, the State of the Union speech described the sad state of a White House that is ignoring something that could be as bad as anything America has faced since the Great Depression. There were some good ideas — free trade is a good idea — but cutesy talk of other problems that are no longer problems and proposed ways of making things better that would likely make things worse. And despite the sweet talk at the end, the speech was still no sign that this president has the least idea of how to negotiate with the political opposition, just cleverness in making them look like villains.

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service.

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OPINION

Vermont's Sanders has mountains to climb

By GEORGE F. WILL

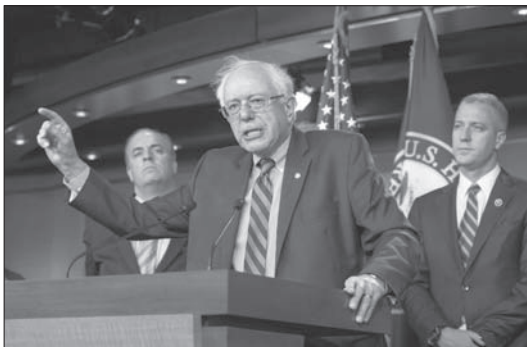
WASHINGTON The young man who answered the phone in the Senate office of Vermont's Bernie Sanders told the caller, a would-be campaign contributor, that it is illegal for funds to be accepted on federal property. He advised the person to contact Sanders' political operation, which might become a presidential campaign.

Sanders, 73, does not smile promiscuously, as befits someone who thinks the republic is being ruined by the government's parsimony regarding social programs, its obsequiousness toward Wall Street, and its tolerance of billionaires influencing electoral politics. If, however, he wants to seek the Democratic nomination, he should seek his staunch disapproval of rich donors.

Without them, Minnesota Sen. Eugene McCarthy's 1968 anti-Vietnam War insurgency in the Democratic primaries would have been impossible. McCarthy was able to precipitate President Lyndon Johnson's retirement only because of five wealthy liberals' seed money. Stewart Mott's \$210,000 would be \$14 million today.

Sanders calls himself an independent, although he caucuses and reliably votes with Senate Democrats. He also calls himself a socialist, which is naughty without being informative. Time was, socialism meant government ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange — or at least of the economy's "commanding heights." Sanders says his idea of socialism exists in Europe's social democracies, which he considers hugely successful. Never mind the European Union's 10 percent unemployment rate and 0.3 percent growth rate. Greece's problems are none of his business.

Long ago, some American mayors called themselves socialists, although, writes historian Morton Keller (in "America's Three Regimes"), "their collectivist impulse did not go much beyond public utilities: 'gas



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., center, Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Mich., left, and Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, D-N.Y., state their disagreement and disappointment with President Barack Obama's request for fast-track trade authority, Wednesday on Capitol Hill.

and water socialism.'" In 1912, America's Socialist Party reached its apogee when its presidential candidate, labor leader Eugene Debs, won 5.99 percent of the vote in a contest with former President Theodore Roosevelt, the incumbent William Howard Taft, and the winner, Woodrow Wilson. In every election from 1928 through 1948, Socialists nominated Norman Thomas (Princeton class of 1905; martinis at the barricades?), whose best showing was a paltry 2.23 percent in the grim year 1932.

Sanders thinks that mounting a third-party campaign might face insuperable barriers to ballot access. If so, the nation is not nearly as unhappy as Sanders thinks it should be. In the *annus horribilis* 1968, Al-

abama's Gov. George Wallace, with a shoe-string budget and negligible staff, ignited a conflagration of grass-roots support that propelled him onto all 50 state ballots.

Impediments were much higher then than they now are: California required collecting 66,000 signatures in 1967 and signatories had to fill out a two-page legal-size form joining Wallace's party. More than 100,000 did. His Ohio supporters had to gather an absurd 453,000 signatures in 10 weeks. They exceeded that total by perhaps 100,000.

Sanders, however, insists that he is no Norman Thomas, who ran not to win but to leaven the nation's political conversation with new ideas. Sanders says he will

not run in Democratic primaries unless he thinks he can win. But how can he win the nomination if he cannot rally followers sufficient in numbers and intensity to get him on state ballots as a third-party candidate? On the other hand, he does not want to be in 2016 what Ralph Nader was in 2000. Nader's 97,488 votes in Florida, where Al Gore lost by 537 votes, cost Gore this state and the presidency.

Sanders, a powerhouse on social media, visited Iowa four times last year and relishes the kind of retail campaigning that Iowans reward. Vermont's neighbor New Hampshire comes next in the nomination calendar. He represents what another Vermonter, Howard Dean, called "the Democratic wing of the Democratic Party," but his agenda is not really radical. It is not progressivism on steroids, spinach, maybe.

He thinks college education has become too expensive but he may not understand Washington's role in this: Colleges increase tuition to capture increased federal subsidies for students. He passionately favors federal funding for universal preschool, and dismisses research, based on 50 years' experience with Head Start, indicating that its benefits are small and evanescent. He is serenely sure "other research" reaches encouraging conclusions.

Sanders vehemently denounces Supreme Court rulings that limit government's power to restrict the giving and spending that finance political advocacy. The court says money is indispensable to the dissemination of advocacy, so some limits abridge First Amendment protections.

Sanders' authentic passion enlivens our often synthetic politics. There is, however, some justice in the fact that his principled rejection of the connection between money and speech might prevent his other principles from being heard.

George F. Will is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Watch out Energy, Rick Perry might run again!

By ANN McFEETERS

Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON Many people are holding their breath waiting for Rick Perry to announce whether he will run for president again.

As Perry ponders, among those who wait nervously are the folks who work at the departments of Commerce, Education and Energy, which Perry presumably still wants to eliminate if elected.

Just the possibility of Perry running again lets us take a delicious moment to remember that "oops" episode when he was listing the three departments in a November 2011 debate and forgot Energy.

"I will tell you," he began decisively, "it is three agencies of government when I get there (the White House) that are gone. Commerce, Education, and the — What's the third one there? Let's see."

Since the massive drop in oil prices has hurt the Texas energy business, we doubt he will forget it again. But you never know. The whole country would be on pins and needles if he gets in the race and has to tick them off again, although by now he might take Ron Paul's advice and name five, but that would be too much of a nail-biting event.

(Also, as Ronald Reagan found out with his very brief fling trying to abolish the Department of Education, politicians can't go around just deciding to ax whole bureaucracies, much as they might want to do so.)



ERIC GAY/AP

Texas Gov. Rick Perry delivers a farewell speech to the Texas Legislature this month in Austin. He plans to announce whether he's running for president "in May or June."

At any rate, it looks as though Perry will run. He's changed his hair color often until he apparently got it right. And he got those scholarly black frames for glasses we assume he does need.

Most recently he told Manny Fernandez of The New York Times, a reporter who worries about Texas politics so the rest of us don't have to, that "I think most people think we're probably going to run, but we'll announce our intentions in May or June."

Notice the presidential "we" might run and "we'll" announce the decision later. Perry has been governor of Texas for 14 years but his stint is ending, along with his

paycheck from Texas taxpayers. And his ambition for greater glory is doubtless as big as his state.

So is his confidence. Asked by Fernandez about the impact of lower oil prices on Texas oil and gas production, he said it won't be as bad as it would have been in the 1980s when the Texas economy collapsed. But he added, "Midland, Odessa, it's going to be tough. There's going to be people losing their jobs out there. When you lose your job, that's a recession, man. Those folks, I'm greatly concerned about."

"But the great story is that people's lives have been improved substantially in Texas

over the last 14 years, and we've had our ups and downs."

Rick Perry. Rand Paul, son of Ron. Mitt Romney. Mike Huckabee. Rick Santorum. Except for next newbie Jeb Bush, it's déjà vu all over again for Republicans. If Harold Stassen, who defined the term "perennial candidate," weren't dead, he'd be running too. But so far, we haven't heard any noise from Michele Bachmann, Newt Gingrich or Herman Cain.

Perry is 64. Paul is 52. Romney is 67. Huckabee is 59. Santorum is 56. Jeb Bush is 51. There's no real point here except it's interesting to know people's ages. But except for Santorum, who used to be a senator from Pennsylvania but lost his state's confidence, and Paul, who is currently a senator from Kentucky, all are former governors. That might or might not be important. But it does mean they don't like Washington, even if they all want to live there.

Meanwhile, back to Texas. Thanks again to Fernandez, we know that he left a biblical message for his successor, Greg Abbott.

"If you really want to be great, you must first be a servant," he said, paraphrasing Matthew 20, verses 25 to 28. It also says "whoever wants to be first must be your slave."

As for how he will stand out in the crowd of 2016 aspirants, Perry notes that he has a claim nobody else can make: He alone was governor of Texas for 14 years with all its ups and downs.

Ann McFeeters is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Tsarnaev's lawyers defend hearing tactics

MA BOSTON — Lawyers for Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev said Friday they did nothing wrong by including excerpts from juror questionnaires in their third request to move the federal trial outside Massachusetts.

In a court filing Thursday, Tsarnaev's lawyers included comments some prospective jurors wrote saying they believe Tsarnaev is guilty and should receive the death penalty.

Judge George O'Toole Jr. later ordered the document sealed and called the defense use of juror comments from confidential questionnaires "improper."

On Friday, Tsarnaev's lawyers said the excerpts they included did not identify jurors in any way. They asked the judge to remove the word "improper" from his order.

Tsarnaev is charged in the 2013 attack, which killed three people and injured more than 260.

Man cited for eating burger while driving

GA MARIETTA — A man says he was cited by police outside Atlanta for eating a cheeseburger while driving.

Madison Turner said he ordered a double quarter-pounder with cheese from a McDonald's shortly before he was pulled over last week.

Turner said the officer told him he saw him eating the cheeseburger for 2 miles, telling the man "You can't just go down the road eating a hamburger."

The ticket, issued under Georgia's distracted-driving law, states in the comments section that the offense is "eating while driving."

Turner is to appear in court Feb. 3.

Large bird attacks jogger; owl is blamed

OR SALEM — An Oregon jogger thought someone knocked him in the head or he got hit by lightning or may have suffered a stroke when he felt a big blow to the head last week as he was jogging in Bush's Pasture Park.

When the man, Ron Jaacks, 58, of Salem, was struck a second time, he saw a large, winged animal he thought was a massive bat.

Willamette University biology Professor David Craig told the (Salem) Statesman Journal the attacker was likely an owl.

Great horned owls are nesting in January and are known to attack anything they think threatens their nest.

DA: Ex-detective hid girlfriend after slaying

PA PHILADELPHIA — Authorities say a veteran Philadelphia homicide detective stashed his girlfriend out-of-state while colleagues sought her in the slaying of her ex-husband.

Detective Ronald Dove has

THE CENSUS

37

The number of years a man had been listed as a fugitive until he was recently captured in Mexico. Authorities say Robert Anton Woodring, 81, failed to surrender in 1977 to begin serving prison sentences for fraud and for a conviction over an attempt to flee in his yacht so officials couldn't seize it. Woodring never reported to prison and was charged with bail-jumping in 1984. He pleaded not guilty to that charge Thursday in Miami.



JERILEE BENNETT, THE (COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.) GAZETTE/AP

A ride and a run

Scott Cleve walks his dog, Astro, during a snowstorm Wednesday in Colorado Springs, Colo.

been indicted Thursday on charges that include obstruction, evidence tampering, flight and conspiracy.

Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams said Dove hid girlfriend Erica Sanchez in an upstate New York motel for several weeks and even took her to visit Niagara Falls.

Officials said Dove was the get-away driver after Sanchez allegedly stabbed her ex-husband through the heart in 2013.

And they said he later hid her car and lied to detectives investigating the case.

Dove was fired amid the investigation into his relationship with Sanchez. Her murder trial is pending.

2 arrested in theft case after selfies surface

TX HOUSTON — Two men nabbed in Houston have been accused of swiping an iPad, taking selfies with some stolen money and then the images posted to the victim's iCloud account.

Investigators late Wednesday arrested two suspects on theft charges.

A truck owner on Jan. 8 discov-

ered his iPad, other electronics and thousands of dollars missing from his vehicle.

He reported the theft, then later noticed his iCloud account had images of two men holding \$100 bills, in photos apparently taken with his iPad.

Some stolen items were found dumped behind a Starbucks. The victim believes his iPad connected to the Starbucks Wi-Fi and the images synced to his iCloud account.

He shared the images with the media. The photos ended up online, helping authorities identify the suspects.

Dead whale discovered under ferry dock

WA SEATTLE — A dead whale has turned up under the Washington state ferry terminal in downtown Seattle.

A Washington State Ferries spokeswoman, Susan Harris-Huether, said it was found just before 11 p.m. Wednesday. She said it's between 25 feet and 30 feet long, and people nearby say the smell is "not good."

The agency is asking the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to remove the

whale. Harris said it is under one of three slips at the Colman Dock terminal, but service Thursday is not affected.

She said ferry officials have no idea how the whale died nor how it ended up at the terminal.

Police: Woman robbed store with child in cab

DE WILMINGTON — Police say a woman took a cab to and from a convenience store robbery and left her 1-year-old daughter in the vehicle during the crime.

Delaware State Police said the robbery happened about 3:25 a.m. Tuesday at a Wawa in Wilmington. Troopers said a woman indicated she had a handgun and demanded money from a clerk.

Police said the clerk gave the woman money, and the suspect fled in a yellow minivan cab. Officers found the taxi and the driver, who did not know what had happened in the Wawa. The driver told police where he had dropped the woman off.

Troopers arrested Amanda Paoletti, 29. Police said her daughter had been in the cab during the robbery.

Paoletti was charged with rob-

bery and endangering the welfare of a child.

Deceased Cadillac fan gets a fitting final ride

MI DETROIT — A Detroit-area mechanic who worked on Cadillacs for 50 years got a proper send-off after he died unexpectedly on Saturday.

The Detroit Free Press reported that Lee Randall of Washington Township was driven to his resting place in the back of a black Cadillac hearse Wednesday.

The exterior of Randall's casket featured chrome accents and Cadillac emblems that he had collected. A colleague also pointed on an old-English D to represent another of Randall's loves — the Detroit Tigers.

One of Randall's favorite songs, "One Piece at a Time" by Johnny Cash, was played at the funeral home before his last ride. It's about a worker on a Cadillac assembly line.

Randall once said he had driven an estimated 25,000 Cadillacs in his life. He died at age 70 of natural causes.

From wire reports

VIDEO GAMES

Avengers assemble in 'Disney Infinity 2.0'

By LOU KESTEN
The Associated Press

For kids today, there's no escaping The Walt Disney Co. Even if Mickey Mouse, "Toy Story" and all the Disney princesses leave you cold, the company also owns Marvel Comics, the Star Wars franchise and the Muppets. The jocks on your block are probably hooked on Disney's ESPN.

The "Infinity" project is Disney's attempt to link all its characters in one shared video-game world. (Well, maybe not ESPN; there's no digitized Chris Berman, yet.) Last year's "Disney Infinity" blended Pixar creations like *The Incredibles* with live-action stars like Capt. Jack Sparrow of "Pirates of the Caribbean."

This year, the company adds its lucrative comic-book properties to the fray with "Disney Infinity 2.0: Marvel Super Heroes." The starter kit includes figures of Iron Man,

Thor and Black Widow, as well as a clear plastic model of Avengers Tower.

So, you plug the provided Infinity Base into your game console, then park a hero and the tower on the base. That opens up Marvel's

version of Manhattan, which has been besieged by frost monsters controlled by Thor's rakish brother, Loki.

Each hero has different powers: Thor has his mighty hammer, for example, while Iron Man can blast villains with his chest-mounted "unibeam."

The missions get somewhat repetitive — go to this location and beat up monsters — but it's fun to switch heroes and try different approaches. And each hero has a complex skill tree that lets you add and enhance superpowers as you progress through the campaign. The starter kit also includes two "power discs" that present brief adventures in Thor's home, Asgard, and the "Guardians of the Galaxy" universe.

If you are more into creating than destroying, the "Infinity" Toy Box provides all the virtual buildings, furniture and other objects you need to stock your own pocket universe. It's streamlined enough that kids can jump right in and start building; those who are more ambitious can design their own minigames and post them online.

The starter kit provides enough activity to keep kids busy for months, but there are also separate Spider-Man and "Guardians of the Galaxy" play sets (\$39.99 each). You can buy individual figures, including Captain America, Hulk, Rocket Raccoon and Groot for \$15 apiece, and

you can play with all the original "Infinity" characters from last year in the 2.0 Toy Box. And you can invest in more power discs (two for \$5), which give your heroes more costumes, vehicles and weapons.

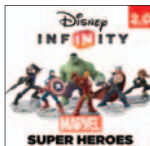
On the scale of contemporary superhero games, "Infinity 2.0" falls somewhere between Warner Bros.' excellent, grungy Batman "Arkham" titles and Activision's spiriting run of flaccid Spider-Man adventures. It's closest in spirit to WB's "Lego Marvel Super Heroes" from last year, sharing that game's glee in lighthearted destruction. Young Marvel maniacs will love it, even as their parents wince over how much all those sweet action figures are going to cost.

Platforms: Xbox One, PlayStation 4, Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, Wii U
Online: infinity.disney.com



In "Disney Infinity 2.0: Marvel Super Heroes," players can explore and create worlds with their favorite Marvel and Disney characters.

Photos courtesy of Disney Interactive Studios



version of Manhattan, which has been besieged by frost monsters controlled by Thor's rakish brother, Loki.

'Skylanders Trap Team' delights and frustrates

By LOU KESTEN
The Associated Press

There's a peculiar kind of tension at work in Activision's wildly successful Skylanders series. If you just want a dozen or so hours of fun, with fast-paced action and an amusing story, a \$75 starter pack will get the job done.

But if you want to see every little thing packed into a Skylanders game, be prepared to spend a couple hundred dollars more on additional toys.

"Skylanders Trap Team" doubles down on the "gotta buy more" strategy. As usual, some areas of the game are accessible only if you have a Skylander figure of a certain element. This time, though, you also need an assortment of traps to round up the bad guys. Start saving your allowance now, kids.

The "Trap Team" starter kit comes with

the game software, two Skylanders creatures, two traps and a redesigned "Portal of Power," which plugs into your game console. (There's also a version for tablets that



has a hole you can fit a "traptanium" trap into. Whenever you defeat a major enemy, you can force it into a trap, provided the enemy and the trap are made of matching

elements. There are eight elements, so if you want to catch them all you'll need to buy six more traps at \$6 apiece — plus a special trap for the series' ubervillain, Kaos.

Once trapped, the erstwhile villains will accompany your Skylander on missions. Most of the time, the villains contribute useless but often hilarious chatter, which you hear through the portal's built-in speaker. If your hero gets into trouble, you can summon a villain to fight in its place.

All of this takes place in the sprawling Skylands, an archipelago of islands that float in the air.

Most of the action involves exploring the islands, beating up enemies and collecting loot, which you can take back to Skylanders Academy and trade for more powerful attacks.

There are also plenty of side missions, such as "Kaos doom challenges" where you battle wave after wave of monsters.

There's a rudimentary trading-card game and an amusingly silly rhythm game.

Unfortunately, an increased number of blocked-off areas lead to some inescapable frustration. The elemental zones — which have always been a part of the series — can be opened only by the new Trap Team Skylanders (\$15 apiece), so all those toys you've collected over the years are pretty much stuck on the shelf.

More aggravating, there are some areas that can't be opened yet by any of the currently available toys.

I'm still impressed by the care and creativity that Activision and developer Toys for Bob continue to invest in each individual Skylander, and the joyful parts outnumber the frustrating.

I'm worried, though, that the balance might be shifting.

Platforms: Xbox One, PlayStation 4, Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, Wii U, Wii
Online: skylanders.com



Many more staff-written game reviews at stripes.com/military-life

MOVIES



Tom Wilkinson, right, plays President Lyndon B. Johnson in "Selma."

By JAKE COYLE
The Associated Press

After Stephen Hawking privately screened "The Theory of Everything," he judged the affectionate portrait of his life, from student to world-famous theoretical physicist, with a succinct verdict: "Broadly true," Hawking pronounced.

Not everyone, though, is so polite about the limitations inherent in recreating life and time in a neatly dramatic two hours. As if on cue, debates of accuracy have arrived in this year's awards season just as they have in past years for movies like "Argo," "The Social Network" and "Zero Dark Thirty."

"American Sniper," "Foxcatcher" and most notably "Selma" — which has been roiled by criticism over its depiction of Lyndon B. Johnson — have returned the familiar drama of life vs. art to Oscar season. Before being taken to the Academy Awards, the movies are now taken to school.

Fictionalizations of historical events and real people have long prompted hand-wringing, but artistic license seems increasingly under threat of being revoked. The friction has become its own sideshow, pulling filmmakers into the cable-news cacophony.

The biggest target this year has

been Ava DuVernay's "Selma," an acclaimed drama about the famous 1965 protest march. It, too, is broadly (and often specifically) true and a rousing, expansive picture of the multitudes that unite in effecting change from the streets of Alabama to the White House.

But the scenes showing Martin Luther King Jr. (David Oyelowo) and President Johnson (Tom Wilkinson) have been harshly criticized for mischaracterizing Johnson as a foot-dragger to black voting rights, rather than the MLK collaborator historians and former aides like Joseph A. Califano Jr. (who penned a scathing editorial for the Washington Post) insist he was.

Many have called the large reaction to one issue in "Selma" overinflated, particularly as it comes after decades of films focusing on white protagonists in stories of black rights. DuVernay says that the "broad strokes" of the LBJ portrayal are true and that he was a "reluctant hero" in the timing of the Voting Rights Act. She calls the controversy a "feeding frenzy of the media."

"You can look at everything with a lens of scrutiny and miss the greater truth that the artists are trying to share," DuVernay said. "It's just a different art form than a doc or a history book. The sooner folks realize that, the sooner we can let this art breathe and live a little bit."

Fact versus fiction

Artistic license gets an audit in Hollywood's awards season

The unique photographic power of the movies to recreate physical reality makes the medium especially prone to issues of fact and fiction. Many still take for fact the conspiracy theories floated by Oliver Stone in "JFK."

The outcry in late 2012 over Kathryn Bigelow's "Zero Dark Thirty," which suggested intelligence gathered through torture helped lead to Osama bin Laden's capture, was partly motivated by establishing the historical record for the public. Senators Diane Feinstein and John McCain claimed the film was "perpetuating the myth that torture is effective" and told the film's makers they had "a social and moral obligation to get the facts right."

Yet getting the facts right isn't always possible to do with certainty or to everyone's satisfaction, while still telling an entertaining story.

"It's impossible," says DuVernay. "If you try to satisfy other people, you will fail. I've made the film that is my vision for tell-

'You can look at everything with a lens of scrutiny and miss the greater truth that the artists are trying to share.'

Ava DuVernay
director, 'Selma'



Bradley Cooper stars in the war drama "American Sniper."

ing the story, and that vision is not one that I intend to have strangled by facts and perspectives and opinions that are impossible to portray to please everyone. What we wanted to do is capture the spirit of the time."

With the notable exception of "Zero Dark Thirty," few films have been punished at the box office or by the motion picture academy for lapses in accuracy.

Before "The King's Speech" went on to win best picture at the 2011 Oscars, critics called it "a gross falsification of history" for glossing over Edward VIII's Hitler-sympathizing. Ben Affleck's "Argo" minimized Canada's role in the Iranian rescue. Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln" set Connecticut lawmakers in an uproar for incorrectly showing the state's representatives as voting against the 13th Amendment.

In this year's Oscar race, there's no shortage of fodder for debate. The World War II tale "The Imitation Game," for one, significantly boils down the code-breaking collaborators at Britain's Bletchley Park, focusing solely on Alan Turing instead.

Clint Eastwood's "American Sniper" renders lethal Navy SEAL marksman Chris Kyle's life in mythical proportions, avoiding more disturbing aspects of his life. (Kyle boasted of killing looters after Hurricane Katrina.) A Guardian column blared: "The

real American Sniper was a hate-filled killer. Why are simplistic patriots treating him as a hero?" The pressure can be equally strong on the other side of the screen. Kyle's father reportedly told Eastwood before production started: "Disrespect my son and I'll unleash hell on you."

Olympic wrestler Mark Schultz had been a passionate supporter of Bennett Miller's "Foxcatcher," a drama about John du Pont's tragic murder of Schultz's brother, Dave. But Schultz recently exploded in a Facebook post about a scene in the film that he felt implied a sexual relationship between him and du Pont.

"You crossed the line Miller. We're done," wrote Schultz, who also threatened to end Miller's career over the dispute.

In an interview, Miller said that they argued over Schultz's hesitance at including less-than-flattering aspects of his life before "a come-to-Jesus moment."

"I said I really don't want to make a film about you or anybody living if I don't have a concession that you're going to sign off on anything that I might discover and deem appropriate so long as it doesn't violate or contradict any fundamental truth about who you are or what happened, as I will judge and not you or anybody else," said Miller. "I said I can walk away and it's fine."



"The Imitation Game" stars Benedict Cumberbatch, center, as logician Alan Turing.



Steve Carell portrays John E. du Pont, a millionaire convicted of murder, in "Foxcatcher."

LIFESTYLE

VETS helping PETS

James Elmore, 51, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, works with Otto. At right is Sia Proutsoos of Safe Humane Chicago, a nonprofit organization promoting positive relationships between people and animals.

PHOTOS BY ZEIGNEW BZDAN, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/TNS



Ex-servicemembers help prepare rescued dogs for new homes

BY WILLIAM HAGEMAN
Chicago Tribune

James Elmore was putting Vienna, a pit bull mix, through her paces. On command, she sat, went to the down position, crawled and reached to shake hands. And if that didn't impress, there was one of those "easy" buttons sitting nearby. Vienna smacked it with a paw, triggering a disembodied "That was easy!"

Elmore and Vienna, along with four other veterans and 14 other dogs, are part of the pilot program for Veterans Advancing Lives of Rescues (VALOR), a combined effort by Safe Humane Chicago, the mental health agency Thresholds and Chicago's Commission on Animal Care and Control.

Safe Humane Chicago, a nonprofit that seeks to create safer communities through education and stronger human-animal relationships, provided animals from its court case dogs program — abused or neglected dogs that were confiscated or saved by law enforcement personnel.

Thresholds, which provides health services, guidance, education and support for people struggling with various degrees of mental illness, recruited former servicemembers and provided caseworkers.

The training sessions were held at the animal control facility where the dogs were housed. During the eight-week pilot program, the dogs and veterans worked two two-hour sessions each week.

"I look at it like they've been falsely accused of something," says Elmore, a former Marine. "Like if they were taught to fight, but we bring them back to where they can be adopted — I get a thrill out of that."

On a recent afternoon, Elmore and fellow vet Shana Hughes and Winman Dickey worked with four dogs — Vienna, Cello, Dilly and Otto, a 2-year-old pit bull mix who is the last of the program's original 15 dogs.

Each dog was given a series of commands. Kat Budrean, Safe Humane's court case program manager, monitored the canine students.

"Kat questions the handlers on the dogs' progress in particular manners," said Cynthia Bathurst, Safe Humane's board chair and executive director.

She said the goal is to improve the animal's social behaviors. "If they have good manners, people are more likely to consider them for their homes."

"The veterans share the plight of this dog population," says Janice Triptow, trainer for VALOR and Safe Home Chicago's manager of behavior and training.

"They're a little unsettled and making their journey. I think they bring empathy to the dogs and learn patience. They learn that small improvements are

to be celebrated."

As any pet owner knows, caring for a dog entails a lot of work, and the VALOR program serves as an introduction to those tasks for veterans who might be looking for a canine companion. They learn how to care for the dog, including cleaning its ears and clipping its nails.

There are benefits for both sides. Once in the program, the dogs are on a path to being saved. They're uncaged, getting exercise, getting training and developing social skills. They are also being prepared to join society.

Of the 15 original dogs approved for

the pilot program, 14 have been adopted, moved to foster homes or taken in by others.

The veterans say they are benefiting as well.

"This got me back in touch with my emotions," says Dickey, who served in the Army in the '70s. He said that for years after leaving the service, he had difficulties coping. "I knew I had a problem, but I didn't know how severe."

He said his depression comes and goes, but "When I came in (the program) with the dogs and got my mind into it, it was a beautiful experience."

The next group of dogs and veterans will begin training shortly. The five vets who graduated from the pilot program will help out and continue working with the court case dogs. They also became volunteers at Animal Care and Control.

"I have problems finding my self-worth," said Hughes, an Air Force veteran. "I have suicidal thoughts and stuff. So this brings something meaningful to my life. There's a sense of accomplishment. ... It's a great program."



Cello, one of the dogs helped by the VALOR program.

HEALTH & FITNESS



Results from a recent study suggest that people who experience high levels of social support and frequent hugs were protected from a higher risk of getting sick when under stress.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette photos



Hugs may help fight stress and infection

By JILL DALY
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

You'll get no argument from most people — especially on a cold winter's night — that hugs make you feel warm inside.

But can that good feeling protect your health?

Over the past decade or so, researchers have sought to explain the positive effects credited to the nonverbal gesture of human connection. It comes alongside research that says chronic stress is linked to shorter lifespans, higher rates of heart disease and diabetes, depression and less effective immune systems.

The science takes two points of view: Hugs as a method of social support, buffering the body from stress, and hugs as a physiological experience that lowers blood pressure and levels of the stress hormone, cortisol.

Noted psychologist Sheldon Cohen of Carnegie Mellon University has led new research that reports people who experience high levels of social support and frequent hugs were protected from a higher risk of getting sick when under stress. Published recently in *Psychological Science*, the 404 subjects in the study — healthy people who were exposed to flu and cold viruses — were monitored for 14 days for times of stress with other people, number of hugs and amount of viral antibodies in their blood (a sign of virus infection), and any mild or severe symptoms of illness.

Since the mid-'80s, research by Cohen and others reported on the ways a social network can help a person cope with life's stressful events, including interpersonal conflicts. By 1999, research found that people who had stress from conflict with other people and were exposed to the common cold virus had a higher risk of being infected. The first part of the latest CMU study was begun in 2000.

"Our interest has been historically in social support," said Cohen. "Our lab and others have developed a lot of evidence that in people who have strong social support networks, their network will buffer them from the effects of stress. Less known is how that happens; how so-



cial support is conferred to people." Generally, the CMU psychologist explained, the amount of social support for a person has been measured by asking people what support they have, not in what people do to show this support. In the recent CMU study, hugs were considered markers of close interpersonal relationships.

"In times of stress and conflict, that's when support from people in your life is important," Cohen said. "It may make less difference in other times in your life."

"Overall, other studies about nonsexual touch (have found) it can buffer acute physiological markers of stress," he said. "We wondered if it would work in the real world."

The journal article says participants with low levels of social support and more frequent interpersonal tension and conflict were found to have a greater likelihood of being infected after exposure to a virus. Both social support and hugs seemed to offset the negative effect of tension and conflict in being susceptible to getting sick.

"If you have high levels of conflict, you're more likely to get infected," Cohen said, "but you're protected from that if you have either high levels of social support or high levels of hugs."

In the camp pursuing the study of the body's physi-

ological responses to touch is Tiffany Field, director of the Touch Research Institute at the University of Miami School of Medicine. She said there is already well-known published research showing that massage can improve the body's immune responses.

"We know that massage alters immune function," she said. "There is data showing an increase in natural killer cells (that destroy) bacterial, viral and cancer cells."

"And the literature shows that hugging between couples alleviates stress," she said, naming 2005 research, also cited in the CMU study, that showed that after hugging before a stressful event, such as a test, cortisol levels in a person are lowered.

Field was cautious about the CMU study design. "It's an amazing study," she said, referring to the multiple blood samples taken and the steps to infect people with flu and cold viruses. "We can't draw blood from people who aren't ill," she said, wondering how difficult it would be to get a university's institutional review board to approve a similar study today. She sits on her university's review board.

Cohen explained the study went through a rigorous review beforehand, and the human subjects had to be in near-perfect health.

In the most recent study, 315 of the 404 participants became infected with the virus they were exposed to — 78 percent. Of those, 127 had enough extra mucus and nasal congestion to be considered clinically sick. There were far more days with hugging, a median of 68 percent, than days with interpersonal tension or conflict, a median of 7 percent.

Field disagreed with the study's finding that stress was buffered by hugging and social support because she saw no evidence that stress caused infection, or that there was much helpful effect from hugging. Neither stress nor hugs seemed to affect the extent of illness, she said.

Cohen said the statistical interactions of the CMU study are complex, but he theorized that because there were few days reported with conflict, and many hugs on days without conflict, perhaps they were giving protection from the stress that came on a day with conflict.

Field supports research on the physiological and biochemical effects of hugging.

"With touch, there is a cascade of events: stress hormones lowering, natural killer (immune) cells increasing. Hugging is not just social support."

Recent studies at the Touch Institute involve pain, she said, but results indicate the value of touch. "We have shown moderate stimulating pressure leads to lower heart rate, lower levels of cortisol, the brain is in the more relaxed state. One would expect that hugging would also do that."

Explaining the difference in their two outlooks, Cohen said, "Markers are useful to look at ... but they are not disease or disease processes ... Cortisol and epinephrine, blood pressure are markers of activation of the body's response to stressors, but in and of themselves they aren't necessarily markers of disease or risk of disease."

So, should we be hugging more?
"We're not ready to give advice," said Cohen, who continues to look in detail on people's behaviors in providing support to other people. "Our studies are different than the real world. We control for the exposure to the virus ... In the real world, there is no controlling exposure. If you're giving hugs during the flu season, you're increasing your exposure."

We consider ourselves warned.

BOOKS

By CAROLYN KELLOGG
Los Angeles Times

"I started comedy when the boom was ending, in '88; I started writing books when print began to die," says actor, comedian and author Patton Oswalt. "I'm drawn to dying realms, man."

Oswalt is sitting in a Los Angeles restaurant talking about why he's written a second book, "Silver Screen Fiend: Learning About Life From an Addiction to Film," when he's got so much else on his plate.

He's about to take off on a nationwide stand-up tour, featuring his first date at Carnegie Hall. He's so busy acting — recent credits include "Justified," Adult Swim's "The Heart, She Holler," and "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." — that his press agent can't keep up with what's shooting when.

For fans of nerd culture, Oswalt is a fixture from his alt-comedy days. But rather than stay in geeky roles like the costumed Dungeonmaster in "Reno 911!," Oswalt played a regular guy on "King of Queens," doctored scripts for the Farrelly brothers, played dark leads in "Big Fan" and "Young Adult," voiced "Ratatouille" and wrote the bestselling 2011 memoir "Zombie Spaceship Wasteland."

"Reading voraciously growing up is what led me into the world of film and comedy," says Oswalt. "That was my gateway, Judy Blume and Beverly Cleary. It's something that I don't

want to go away."

Oswalt, 45, looks positively professional in a plaid jacket on an L.A. winter day. As he digs into a salad, he unleashes a swift critique of our current modes of cultural consumption.

"Everything is based on who has the best equipment: Do you have the best home theater, the best video game console?" he says. Whereas "a book is a book is a book," he continues. "You can get one for free in the library. It's the last totally democratic, egalitarian gateway to culture and the arts left."

Least things get too serious, he adds. "There's no one going [using his best advertising voice], 'If you read 'Moby Dick,' you gotta read it in 14-point Helvetica; you can't just read 12-point Courier.'"

"Silver Screen Fiend" (multiple fonts and sizes, includ-

ing footnotes) is a trip through Oswalt's past and his love of film, a twofold chronicle of underground comedy and gluttonous cinematic consumption. In the 1990s, Oswalt obsessively attended L.A.'s New Beverly Cinema and other art-house theaters, watching hundreds of films. It was a self-prescribed education.

"When I was thinking of becoming a comedian I just was devouring comedy, going out to see it and doing it," he says. "In my mind, I'm going to become a director and a screenwriter. I'm going to see every movie ever made. It really appealed to the whole OCD, completist aspect to my personality."

He had recently moved to Los Angeles and was writing, halfheartedly, for "Mad TV." At night he'd see movies, then perform and watch other comedians at Cafe Largo, which had suddenly emerged as the white-hot center of alt comedy.

At Largo, he writes, "art and commerce, risk and opportunity — fused and created a nameless new drug. It hung in the air, a narcotic vapor, and we all breathed it. It made all of us ambitious, competitive, resentful, jealous and, ultimately, more creative than we'd ever been before or since. At least, that's how it affected me."

Asinsightful as he is about those days a decade ago with Sarah Silverman, David Cross, Louis CK, Paul F. Tompkins, Janeane Garofalo, Zach Galifianakis and more, he thinks someone else should write a book about Largo then. "It can't be me," he insists, "because even if I tried to be as objective as I possibly

could, there would be still things I would tweak through my own memory and my own ego. It would not be a good account."

His memory seems impeccable — in our conversation, he pulled in perfect movie quotes and sang a snippet of a Butthole Surfers song — but he believes it's haphazard.

"There are moments in my past where I can absolutely remember the smell, the quality of the light, who was saying what," he says — that's the stuff that gives his memoir texture and weight. "And there's other things that I cannot remember at all.... You know, my memory is like a scalpel being waved around by a blind dude. Sometimes it absolutely hits home, and other times it's swishing at air."

In one standout chapter, Oswalt returns to his childhood home in Virginia and goes to see a film with an old friend. "I had a very specific idea how I was going to come off," he says, a safe guess would be that he would be the sophis-

ticated returning to the small town. But through the writing process, Oswalt realized something:

"I'm not the hero of this chapter, I'm the bad guy. He's actually living life and embracing it, and I'm this [movie] snob."

"There were a lot of moments like that," he says, having realized, "this isn't a chapter about me having the smart thing to say, this is about me lacking in some humanity."

Oswalt, a married man with a daughter, has publicly tried to find the balance between public and private life. Last summer, despite having nearly 2 million followers on Twitter, he took a break from the social network. Being away from it, he says, "refilled my tank." Twitter was too easy: "I wasn't sitting and brooding, which is where my better stuff would come from."

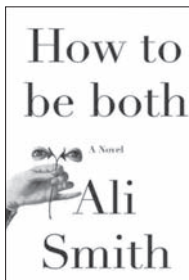
He plans to repeat the exercise. "Every year, June 1 to Labor Day, I'm off Twitter. I'm just going to go live my life. Then I'm going to come back, and it makes it all better. Just like movies: It should enhance my life, not be my life."

Patton Oswalt

CHRIS PIZZELLO,
INVISION/AP

Oswalt has a thing for the movies

'Silver Screen Fiend'
a trip through
comedian's past,
his love of film



'How to Be Both' offers two stories with playful cleverness

By CONNIE OGLE
Miami Herald

Ali Smith is a playful writer, but her sense of fun thrives in unlikely places. It's evident in the language of the terrible death of the young chambermaid in a dumbwaiter in Hotel World ("Wooooo-ooo-hooooooo what a fall what a soar what a plummet what a dash into dark into light what a plunge what a glide thud crash what a drop what a rush what a swoop what a fright what

a mad hushed skirl what a smash mush mash-up broke and gashed what a heart in my mouth what an end.")

It's there in the title and subject matter of her last novel, "There but for the," about a man invited to a dinner party who locks himself in a bathroom and refuses to leave, becoming a minor celebrity in the process.

It's here in the clever structure of her latest novel, a wonderfully slippery, postmodern examination of the perception, gender,

loss and the lasting power of art. How to be both is split into two narratives — the present-day "Camera," from the viewpoint of a teenage girl in Cambridge, and "Eyes," narrated by a 15th-century Italian artist.

Half of the printed books start with one story, the rest with the other. Which comes first? Depends on the luck of the draw. Do readers of one version glean different insights or the same insights in a different order? Does it matter? Smith's advice on the

matter is sage: Pay attention. As one of her characters says, "[T]here's always more to see, if you look."

Which is not to say that "How to Be Both" is merely an exercise in literary trickery. Smith's technique is bold and experimental, but what makes her work so rare and desirable is that it always contains a moving emotional core. Her novels stretch stylistic boundaries, but they also compassionately, even tenderly, explore the universal perils of being human.

*Looking for a new field
where you can stand out?*

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

McDonald's faces discrimination suit

By TOM MURPHY
The Associated Press

Some McDonald's workers who say they were fired because of their race are suing the fast-food giant, according to a top-ranking executive who is taking responsibility for the discrimination and harassment they say they endured.

The workers said in a federal complaint filed Thursday that about 15 African-American employees of some southern Virginia restaurants run by Soveva Co. were fired last May after several white employees were hired. Many of those fired were told by Soveva owner Michael Simon that while they were good workers, they "didn't fit the profile" he was trying to build for the company, according to the complaint.

The employees said that McDonald's Corp. controls nearly every aspect of how franchisees operate restaurants, but corporate officials did nothing when they were contacted about the dismissals and "blatant racial

discrimination."

A statement from McDonald's Corp. said the company had not seen the lawsuit and couldn't comment on the allegations, but it and its franchisees "share a commitment to the well-being and fair treatment of all people who work in McDonald's restaurants."

Representatives of Soveva and Simon did not return calls from The Associated Press seeking comment.

The workers said in the complaint that before they were fired, restaurant supervisors frequently demeaned African-American workers by using terms like "ghetto" to describe them and by complaining that there were "too many black people in the store." The complaint also states that female employees were inappropriately touched by a male supervisor who also sent them naked photos and offered better working conditions in exchange for sex.

Former restaurant shift manager Katrina Stanfield said in a court filing that she faced "constant abuse" before she was fired last May, after Simon told her he would give her a reference for being a good worker. Stanfield wound up being unemployed for five months. She fell behind on her bills and couldn't buy school clothes for her children.

McDonald's advertises heavily in black neighborhoods but "turns its back" on its workers when they face discrimination, said the Rev. Kevin Chandler, president of the South Boston, Virginia, Chapter of the NAACP.

"McDonald's must be held responsible for permitting this unconscionable mistreatment of its workers," he said. Franchisees operate the vast majority of McDonald Corp.'s more than 14,000 U.S. restaurants, and the case reflects a growing point of contention for the Oak Brook, Ill.-based restaurant chain.

The lawsuit comes a month after the National Labor Relations Board designated McDonald's Corp. as a "joint-employer" with franchisees. The NLRB, a federal agency that resolves employee-management disputes in the private sector, contends that the company and its franchisees are joint employers because the company wields extensive influence over how the franchisees operate.

The agency's general counsel office ruled in December that the company violated the rights of employees openly seeking better pay and working conditions.

MARKET WATCH

Jan. 22, 2015

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Dow Jones Industrials | 259.70 |
| | 17,813.98 |
| Nasdaq composite | 138.95 |
| | 4,750.40 |
| Standard & Poor's 500 | 31.03 |
| | 2,063.15 |
| Russell 2000 | 24.12 |
| | 1,190.37 |

EXCHANGE RATES

| Military rates | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Euro costs (Jan. 26) | \$1.1613 |
| Dollar buys (Jan. 26) | €0.8611 |
| British pound (Jan. 26) | \$1.54 |
| Japanese yen (Jan. 26) | ¥115.00 |
| South Korean won (Jan. 26) | ₩1,095.00 |
| Commercial rates | |
| Bahrain (Dinar) | 0.3770 |
| British pound | \$1.5005/€0.6664 |
| Canada (dollar) | 1.2421 |
| China (Yuan) | 6.2304 |
| Denmark (Krone) | 6.6207 |
| Egypt (pound) | 7.3999 |
| Euro | \$1.1245/€0.8893 |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | 7.7522 |
| Hungary (Forint) | 275.60 |
| Israel (Shekel) | 4.0033 |
| Japan (Yen) | 117.78 |
| Kuwait (Dinar) | 0.2942 |
| Norway (Krone) | 7.4478 |
| Philippines (Peso) | 44.04 |
| Poland (Zloty) | 3.75 |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 3.7584 |
| Singapore (Dollar) | 1.3439 |
| South Korea (Won) | 1,077.95 |
| Switzerland (Franc) | 0.8734 |
| Thailand (Baht) | 32.62 |
| Turkey (New Lira) | 2.3422 |

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., those for the United States), the bank charges with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to the dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Prime rate | 3.25 |
| 3-month bill | 0.12 |
| 3-month bond | 0.03 |
| 30-year bond | 2.44 |

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Saturday's US temperatures

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|-------|------------------|-----|-----|-------------|------------------|----|-----|------------|----------------|----|-----|-------|
| City | Hi | Lo | Wthr | City | Hi | Lo | Wthr | City | Hi | Lo | Wthr | City | Hi | Lo | Wthr |
| Able, Tex | 54 | 35 | Clr | Chatanooga | 46 | 33 | Clr | Fort Wayne | 37 | 30 | Clr | Louisville | 49 | 35 | PCldy |
| Akron, Ohio | 34 | 27 | Clr | Cheyenne | 49 | 34 | Clr | Fresno | 59 | 43 | Clr | Lubbock | 52 | 28 | Clr |
| Albany, N.Y. | 36 | 23 | Clr | Chicago | 38 | 31 | Clr | Goodland | 56 | 32 | Clr | Macon | 53 | 33 | PCldy |
| Albuquerque | 48 | 26 | Clr | Cincinnati | 44 | 31 | Clr | Grand Junction | 41 | 21 | Clr | Madison | 38 | 28 | Clr |
| Allentown, Pa. | 27 | 26 | Snow | Cleveland | 34 | 28 | Clr | Grand Rapids | 37 | 26 | Clr | Medford | 60 | 41 | PCldy |
| Anchorage | 42 | 25 | Snow | Colorado Springs | 49 | 29 | Clr | Great Falls | 40 | 30 | Clr | Memphis | 53 | 38 | Clr |
| Asheville | 48 | 35 | PCldy | Columbia, S.C. | 52 | 34 | Rain | Green Bay | 47 | 32 | Clr | Miami Beach | 78 | 53 | Clr |
| Atlanta | 48 | 35 | PCldy | Columbus, Ga. | 52 | 34 | Rain | Greensboro, N.C. | 44 | 31 | Rain | Midland-Odessa | 54 | 32 | PCldy |
| Atlantic City | 38 | 29 | Rain | Columbus, Ohio | 52 | 30 | Clr | Harrisburg | 37 | 28 | Snow | Minneapolis | 38 | 29 | Clr |
| Austin | 38 | 29 | Rain | Concord, N.H. | 32 | 21 | Snow | Hartford Spfld | 34 | 29 | Snow | Mpls-St Paul | 35 | 27 | Clr |
| Baltimore | 39 | 29 | Clr | Corpus Christi | 63 | 43 | Clr | Helena | 41 | 31 | Clr | Missoula | 40 | 30 | Snow |
| Baton Rouge | 57 | 37 | Clr | Dallas-Ft Worth | 58 | 39 | Clr | Honolulu | 79 | 63 | Clr | Mobile | 57 | 36 | Clr |
| Bilings | 49 | 37 | Clr | Dayton | 41 | 29 | Clr | Houston | 59 | 38 | Clr | Montgomery | 53 | 33 | PCldy |
| Birmingham | 49 | 34 | PCldy | Daytona Beach | 68 | 40 | Rain | Huntsville | 48 | 33 | PCldy | Nashville | 47 | 34 | Clr |
| Bismarck | 41 | 29 | PCldy | Denver | 53 | 33 | Clr | Indianapolis | 40 | 31 | Clr | New Orleans | 55 | 41 | Clr |
| Boise | 39 | 29 | Clr | Des Moines | 52 | 36 | Clr | Jackson, Miss | 53 | 34 | PCldy | New York City | 34 | 29 | Snow |
| Boston | 35 | 26 | Snow | Detroit | 35 | 28 | Clr | Jacksonville | 63 | 37 | PCldy | Newark | 35 | 29 | Snow |
| Bridgeport | 35 | 26 | Snow | Duluth | 32 | 18 | Snow | Juneau | 45 | 35 | Rain | Norfolk, Va. | 44 | 35 | Rain |
| Brownsville | 64 | 44 | Clr | El Paso | 53 | 30 | PCldy | Kansas City | 56 | 37 | Clr | North Platte | 57 | 31 | Clr |
| Buffalo | 35 | 19 | Clr | Elk River | 37 | 31 | Snow | Knoxville | 45 | 32 | Clr | Omaha | 55 | 38 | PCldy |
| Burlington, Vt. | 34 | 24 | Clr | Erie | 33 | 28 | Snow | Lake Charles | 58 | 40 | Clr | Orlando | 70 | 42 | Rain |
| Caribou, Maine | 30 | 13 | Clr | Eugene | 58 | 42 | Clr | Lansing | 45 | 25 | Clr | Padsch | 47 | 33 | Clr |
| Charleston, S.C. | 40 | 27 | Clr | Fairbanks | 812 | 228 | Clr | Las Vegas | 66 | 45 | Clr | Pendleton | 56 | 40 | Clr |
| Charleston, W.Va. | 43 | 33 | Rain | Fargo | 36 | 26 | Clr | Lexington | 44 | 32 | PCldy | Perth | 53 | 35 | PCldy |
| Charlotte, N.C. | 48 | 32 | Rain | Flagstaff | 44 | 20 | Clr | Lincoln | 57 | 37 | PCldy | Philadelphia | 37 | 29 | Snow |
| | | | | Fort Smith | 55 | 34 | Clr | Little Rock | 55 | 36 | Clr | Phoenix | 76 | 48 | Clr |
| | | | | | | | Los Angeles | 81 | 55 | Clr | Pittsburgh | 36 | 27 | Clr | |

National temperature extremes

Hi: Tus., 84. Fort Myers, Fla.
Lo: Trenton, N.J. -10. Colo.

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

National temperature extremes
Hi: Thu., 84, Fort Myers, Fla.
Lo: Thu., -23, Crested Butte, Colo.



VIETNAM

AT
50

Explore **STARS AND STRIPES**® new feature section: Vietnam at 50.

With contributions from the men and women who were there, as well as voices from experts and our readers, we take a look back at the Vietnam War and the cultural changes that surrounded it. How the war was prosecuted, how it changed our military and foreign policy thinking, and how America viewed itself then and now. It's a radically new design for Stars and Stripes, and one you can help shape by sharing your thoughts and voices.

Visit online for more content and video—or to share your memories: stripes.com/vietnam50

Frazz



Dilbert



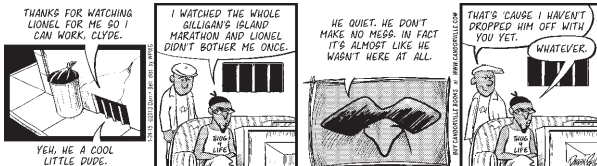
Pearls Before Swine



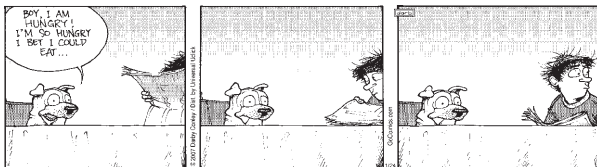
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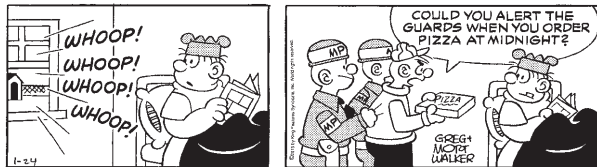
Candorville



Get Fuzzy



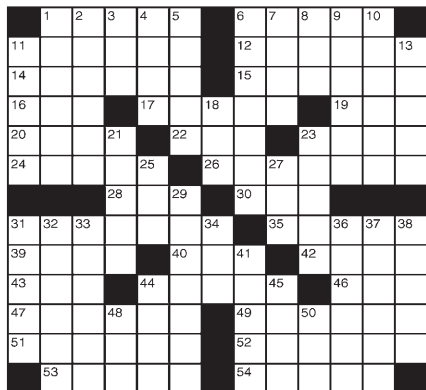
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



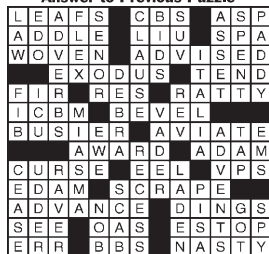
ACROSS

- 1 Jousting prop
- 6 Elegance
- 11 Given a second chance
- 12 Rock salt
- 14 Needing change
- 15 Bewildered
- 16 Cooperstown's Mel
- 17 Wood nymph
- 19 Dress
- 20 Army transport
- 22 Thither
- 23 Old Chevy model
- 24 Llama territory
- 26 Speaker
- 28 Allen or Curry
- 30 Charged bit
- 31 At that place
- 35 Gondolier, e.g.
- 39 Parks at a bus stop?
- 40 Ph. bk. data
- 42 Calif-length
- 43 1970 Jackson 5 hit
- 44 Print of a sort
- 46 Past
- 47 Creekborne and paddleless
- 49 Soon
- 51 Midwest capital
- 52 Bk. after Prov.

DOWN

- 3 Some kind of a nut
- 5 Dissuade
- 7 Kind of season
- 8 Lessened
- 9 Neither mate
- 10 Gunk
- 11 Access
- 12 Italian wine
- 13 Cry from the crow's nest
- 14 Chicken-king link
- 15 Baker's tool
- 16 Moe, Larry or Shemp
- 17 Spanish red wine
- 18 Actress Samantha
- 19 Second person
- 21 Jordan tourist attraction
- 23 Poison
- 25 "Sprechen — Deutsch?"
- 27 Upper surface
- 29 Least
- 31 Characteristic
- 32 Mingle
- 33 Flee
- 34 "To be or — ..."
- 36 Apt
- 37 More nervous
- 38 Urban distur-bances
- 41 Recoiled (from)
- 42 Canoeists' place
- 45 Never again?
- 48 Lustrous black
- 50 Performance

Answer to Previous Puzzle



1-24

CRYPTOQUIP

LUOObTHEJORJ WYFYXAI

ZIJZ'B J EUFT RCLYFZJOZ

VUOZUF DYF CJOXDJVZXFRQA

LJBZJ: BLJAIUZZRBWXA.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: the SONG YOU'VE WRITTEN ISN'T NEARLY LONG ENOUGH. WHEN I HEARD IT I HAD AN ADD-VERSE REACTION.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: Z equals T

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules.
myafn.net

Pro football

NFL playoffs

Wild-card playoffs

Saturday, Jan. 3
Carolina 27, Arizona 16
Baltimore 30, Pittsburgh 17

Sunday, Jan. 18

Indianapolis 26, Cincinnati 10
Dallas 20, Detroit 20

Divisional playoffs

Saturday, Jan. 10
New England 35, Baltimore 31
Seattle 31, Carolina 11

Sunday, Jan. 19

Green Bay 26, Dallas 21
Indianapolis 24, Denver 13

Conference Championships

Sunday, Jan. 18
Seattle 28, Green Bay 21
New England 45, Indianapolis 17

Sunday, Jan. 25

Team Irvin vs. Team Carter
at Glendale, Ariz.
New England vs. Seattle

College hockey

Thursday's score

EAST
Canisius 4, Niagara 1

Deals

Thursday's transactions

BASEBALL
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER — Suspended Houston Astros RHP Bud Norris (left arm) and Cleveland RHP Duke of Schamann (Akron-EL) 50 games each, without pay, for violating the Minor League drug Prevention and Treatment Program.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Agreed to terms with RHPs: Jojo Asencio, Scott Carroll, Jesse Crain, Logan Kensing, Argenis Lopez, and Michael Pineda. RHPs: Zach Phillips and Joe Savery; CS: George Kontaris and Michael Taylor; INF: Juan Diaz and Andy LaRoche; and OFs: Michael Taylor and Michael Taylor on minor league contracts.

ATLANTA BRAVES — Agreed to terms with INF Shawn O'Malley on a minor league contract.

National League
ATLANTA BRAVES — Agreed to terms with INF Kelly Johnson on a minor league contract.

COLORADO ROCKIES — Named Doug Peltz pitching coach for Braves (NWL), Dave Burba pitching coach for New Britain (EL), and Brandon Emmanuel pitching coach for Modesto (Cal).

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Agreed to terms with OF Gregor Blanco on a two-year contract.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Agreed to terms with INF Kyle Kalish and RHP Evan Meek on minor league contracts.

BASEBALL
National Baseball Association
The NABA Board of Directors has made \$15,000 for making an obscene gesture during a game against Charlotte on Wednesday.

FOOTBALL
NFL — Fined Seahawks RB Marshawn Lynch \$20,000 for making an obscene gesture during last Sunday's NFC championship game.

CHICAGO BEARS — Named Frank Smith tight ends coach and Jason George offensive coordinator.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Named Ryan Larkin offensive coordinator.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANERS — Named Mike Calabrese quarterbacks coach.

National Hockey League
BOSTON BLUE JAYS — Assigned Lou Johnson to Springfield (AHL) and John Desjardins to Worcester (AHL).

U.S. SKI TEAM — Named Brandon Dyke, skisuit coach, and Scott Cochran, ski coach, to the team for the remainder of the season.

Major League Soccer
D.C. UNITED — Announced the option for F. Fabian Espindola was extended and he now has designated player status.

National Women's Soccer League
WASHINGTON SPIRITS — Signed F. Estefania Barini.

College basketball

Thursday's men's scores

EAST
Albany (NY) 62, Hartford 33
Bryant 74, LIU Brooklyn 69

DePaul 64, Fairfield 50
Cincinnati 69, Fordham 59
Iona 78, Hampshire 37

Northwestern 79, Vermont 68
Massachusetts 82, Vermont 68
West Virginia 69, Farmingdale 51

Providence 68, Xavier 60
Rhode Island 59, La Salle 47
Robert Morris 63, Mount St. Mary's 59

OT
Sacred Heart 78, Fairfield Dickinson 77
Bonaventure 100, Duquesne 97

Stony Brook 65, Mass.-Lowell 45
Temple 73, South Florida 48
UConn 67, UCF 60

UMBC 76, Maine 59
Wagner 63, St. Francis (Pa.) 58
Alderson-Brooks 94, Trevecca Nazarene 68

SOUTH
Appalachian 34, South Alabama 34
Asbury 88, Rio Grande 87

Delaware 82, Lewis 79
Belmont 72, UT-Martin 67
Bethel (Tenn.) 83, Blue Mountain 60

Calicut 66, Martin 66
Cumberland 69, Lee 64
Eastern Michigan 69, Western Michigan 67

ETSU 70, The Citadel 59
Freed-Hardeman 97, Harris-Stowe 76
Gardner-Webb 79, Longwood 67

Georgetown (Ky.) 88, Campbellsville 66
Kentucky 57, T. L. Kentucky 67
Kennesaw 58, Stetson 82

Kentucky Wesleyan 68, Davis & Elkins 112
Wilson 76, Cumberland 120

Lipscomb 80, Jacksonville 77, 2OT
Louisiana-Lafayette 86, Arkansas 57

Middle Tennessee 68, Oklahoma 58
Miami 65, NC State 40
Miami 65, Tennessee 68, Old Dominion 58

OT
Morehead 58, Tennessee Tech 74
North Carolina 74, N. Kentucky 66

OT
North Carolina 74, N. Kentucky 66
Pikeville 59, Ohio Christian 79

Seton Hall 72, Campbell 70
Radford 73, High Point 66
Samford 69, UNC Greensboro 78

OT
Seton Hall 72, Campbell 70
Spring Hill 61, Kentucky 57, 2OT
St. John 51, Lane 87

TEXAS
Texas-Arlington 61, Louisiana-Monroe 57
Towson 53, Elon 51

UTAS 81, Charlotte 76, 2OT
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UC Irvine 86, CS Northridge 49
UC Santa Barbara 83, UC Riverside 75
Washington 52, Colorado 50

Thursday's women's scores

EAST
Albany (NY) 72, UMB 62
Boston College 60, Duke 56

Drexel 63, Hofstra 56
Fairfield 43, Rider 40

Marquette 74, Vermont 66
New Rochelle 68, Vaughn 37

79, Indiana 79
Quinnipiac 73, Marist 55

OT
Stony Brook 64, Mass.-Lowell 60
Syracuse 65, Pittsburgh 60

SOUTH
Alabama 51, Auburn 63
Appalachian 37, South Alabama 59

Bethel (Tenn.) 72, Blue Mountain 63
Campbellsville 55, Georgetown (Ky.) 30

Cumberland (Tenn.) 56, Lindsey Wilson 54
E. Kentucky 64, Murray 51

Florida Gulf Coast 79, SC-Upstate 61
Florida 58, Louisville 63

Freed-Hardeman 92, Harris-Stowe 64
Georgia 54, Texas A&M 51

Indiana 79, Indiana 79
Kentucky 54, Spring Hill 46

Kentucky Wesleyan 66, Davis & Elkins 65
Lane 78, Stillman 74, 2OT

Lewis 73, Belmont 54
Lipscomb 25, Jacksonville 63

Longwood 67, UConn 60
Louisiana-Lafayette 68, Arkansas 57

Louisiana-Monroe 56, Texas-Arlington 57
Martin Methodist 65, Brenau 41

Maryland 85, Michigan 56
Middle Tennessee 65, Old Dominion 68

Midway 111, Indiana-East 106
Mississippi 64, Mississippi 62

North Carolina 67, NC State 63
North Florida 51, N. Kentucky 66

North Carolina 74, N. Kentucky 66
Pikeville 59, Ohio Christian 79

Seton Hall 72, Campbell 70
Radford 73, High Point 66

Samford 69, UNC Greensboro 78
Seton Hall 72, Campbell 70

Spring Hill 61, Kentucky 57, 2OT
St. John 51, Lane 87

TEXAS
Texas-Arlington 61, Louisiana-Monroe 57
Towson 53, Elon 51

UTAS 81, Charlotte 76, 2OT
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Tennis

Australian Open

Friday

At Melbourne Park

Prize: \$2.5 million (Grand Slam)

Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles

Men
Tomáš Berdych (7), Czech Republic, def. Novak Djokovic (6), Serbia, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3

Women
Grigor Dimitrov (10), Bulgaria, def. Marcos Baghdatis, Cyprus, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3

OT
Andreas Seppi, Italy, def. Roger Federer (2), Switzerland, 6-4, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5)

OT
Murray (6), Britain, def. Joao Sousa, Portugal, 6-1, 6-1, 7-5

OT
Bernard Tomasi, Australia, def. Sam Groth, Australia, 6-4, 7-6 (8), 6-3

OT
Kevin Anderson (14), South Africa, def. Richard Gasquet (24), France, 6-4, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (5)

OT
Nick Kyrgios, Australia, def. Malek Jaziri, Tunisia, 6-3, 7-6 (6), 6-1

OT
Rafael Nadal (3), Spain, def. Dudi Sela, Israel, 6-1, 6-0, 7-5

Doubles

Men
John Peers, Australia, and John-Patrick Smith, Australia, 6-2, 6-3

OT
Dominic Inglot, Britain, and Pierre Herberger, Romania, def. Diego Hidalgo, Argentina, and Horacio Zeballos, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4

OT
Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, Pakistan, and Novak Djokovic (6), Serbia, def. Paolo Andreotti and Giorgio Corbelli, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3

OT
Carsten Ball, Netherlands, and Leo Pospisil, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3

OT
Simona Halep, Romania, and Flavia Pennetta (4), Italy, def. Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia, and Karin Knapp, Austria, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-2

Second Round

Men
Murray, Britain, and John-Patrick Smith, Australia, 6-2, 6-3

OT
Dominic Inglot, Britain, and Pierre Herberger, Romania, def. Diego Hidalgo, Argentina, and Horacio Zeballos, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4

OT
Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, Pakistan, and Novak Djokovic (6), Serbia, def. Paolo Andreotti and Giorgio Corbelli, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3

OT
Carsten Ball, Netherlands, and Leo Pospisil, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3

OT
Simona Halep, Romania, and Flavia Pennetta (4), Italy, def. Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia, and Karin Knapp, Austria, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-2

OT
Murray, Britain, and John-Patrick Smith, Australia, 6-2, 6-3

OT
Dominic Inglot, Britain, and Pierre Herberger, Romania, def. Diego Hidalgo, Argentina, and Horacio Zeballos, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4

OT
Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, Pakistan, and Novak Djokovic (6), Serbia, def. Paolo Andreotti and Giorgio Corbelli, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3

OT
Carsten Ball, Netherlands, and Leo Pospisil, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3

OT
Simona Halep, Romania, and Flavia Pennetta (4), Italy, def. Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia, and Karin Knapp, Austria, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-2

OT
Murray, Britain, and John-Patrick Smith, Australia, 6-2, 6-3

OT
Dominic Inglot, Britain, and Pierre Herberger, Romania, def. Diego Hidalgo, Argentina, and Horacio Zeballos, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4

OT
Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, Pakistan, and Novak Djokovic (6), Serbia, def. Paolo Andreotti and Giorgio Corbelli, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3

OT
Carsten Ball, Netherlands, and Leo Pospisil, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3

OT
Simona Halep, Romania, and Flavia Pennetta (4), Italy, def. Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia, and Karin Knapp, Austria, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-2

OT
Murray, Britain, and John-Patrick Smith, Australia, 6-2, 6-3

OT
Dominic Inglot, Britain, and Pierre Herberger, Romania, def. Diego Hidalgo, Argentina, and Horacio Zeballos, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4

OT
Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, Pakistan, and Novak Djokovic (6), Serbia, def. Paolo Andreotti and Giorgio Corbelli, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3

OT
Carsten Ball, Netherlands, and Leo Pospisil, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3

OT
Simona Halep, Romania, and Flavia Pennetta (4), Italy, def. Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia, and Karin Knapp, Austria, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-2

OT
Murray, Britain, and John-Patrick Smith, Australia, 6-2, 6-3

OT
Dominic Inglot, Britain, and Pierre Herberger, Romania, def. Diego Hidalgo, Argentina, and Horacio Zeballos, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4

OT
Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, Pakistan, and Novak Djokovic (6), Serbia, def. Paolo Andreotti and Giorgio Corbelli, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3

Benjamin Becker, Germany, and Artem Sitak, New Zealand, def. Julian Knowle, Austria, and Vasek Pospisil, Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-3, 6-2

OT
Jean-Julien Roquet, Netherlands, and David Marrero, Spain, def. Artem Sitak, New Zealand, and Vasek Pospisil, Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-3, 6-2

OT
Pablo Cuevas, Uruguay, and David Marrero, Spain, def. Artem Sitak, New Zealand, and Vasek Pospisil, Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-3, 6-2

OT
Pablo Cuevas, Uruguay, and David Marrero, Spain, def. Artem Sitak, New Zealand, and Vasek Pospisil, Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-3, 6-2

OT
Pablo Cuevas, Uruguay, and David Marrero, Spain, def. Artem Sitak, New Zealand, and Vasek Pospisil, Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-3, 6-2

OT
Pablo Cuevas, Uruguay, and David Marrero, Spain, def. Artem Sitak, New Zealand, and Vasek Pospisil, Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-3, 6-2

OT
Pablo Cuevas, Uruguay, and David Marrero, Spain, def. Artem Sitak, New Zealand, and Vasek Pospisil, Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-3, 6

AUTO RACING/SPORTS BRIEFS

4-time NASCAR champ Gordon to retire

By JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

Jeff Gordon said a year ago that if he won a fifth NASCAR championship in 2014, he'd call it quits on his illustrious career.

He fell just short of another title, but acknowledged Thursday he never would have done it anyway.

Instead, this year, his 23rd in NASCAR's elite Cup series, will be his last. He made the decision midway through last year, when he was invigorated by his on-track performance and a very strong title shot.

When Gordon finally steps out of the famed and sometimes feared No. 24 Chevrolet, he'll close the books on one of the most successful careers in auto racing history. He goes into this final season with 92 wins, trailing only Hall of Fame drivers Richard Petty (200) and David Pearson (105).

He won all the big races, collected four championships in just seven years and had 58 victories before his 30th birthday. The 43-year-old driver also has three Daytona 500 victories and a record five Brickyard 400 wins.

But there are many who believe Gordon would have broken the record of seven championships shared by Petty and the late Dale Earnhardt if not for NASCAR's adoption of the Chase for the championship format in 2004. He went down to the wire in the title race that year, lost an epic battle to teammate Jimmie Johnson in 2007 and was denied a shot at the winner-take-all finale last season by just one point.

Gordon said last season, a four-win campaign in which he led the point standings for much of the year, only fueled him to go out on top this year.

"I'm motivated by that. As good as we



ALEX BRANDON/AP

NASCAR driver Jeff Gordon smiles during a press conference in Washington. Gordon says he will retire as a full-time driver after the 2015 season.

ran last year, I don't see any reason why we can't do that one more time," he said.

Here are some other interesting things Gordon told AP about his career:

On Dale Earnhardt: Gordon had an early rivalry with the blue-collar Earnhardt, who ribbed the "Wonder Boy" when he first broke into NASCAR. They had a rivalry on the track, but an appreciation

for one another off it that developed into a friendship.

"I was always so confused as to why he and I spent the amount of time together at the track that we did," Gordon said. "I never understood it, and this person told me, 'Well, he had so much respect for you.' I thought, 'That's funny. Why would he have respect for me? I was just some punk kid.'"

"But I had tremendous respect for him and looked up to him. And even though we had our run-ins on the race track, and our fans were complete opposites, there definitely was a common respect there."

On his career highlight: Of his 92 wins and four championships, Gordon believes his victory in the inaugural race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway was the best moment of his career.

Although he was born in California, he moved as a young driver to Indiana for more racing opportunities, and the relocation gave him a profound respect for Indianapolis. But he was never able to move up the ladder in Indy cars, and instead made a move to NASCAR that initially shut the door on his chances to race at the Brickyard.

But when NASCAR made its debut there in 1994, he finally got his chance.

"Driving into that race track as a kid, picking up Valvoline oil, watching Indy cars there... I hate that I was never there in an Indy car," he said. "But to go there and do that in a stock car in their inaugural race was amazing."

On what he'll miss most: Gordon doesn't use the word "retire" because he doesn't want to rule out racing again.

He said he'll remain with Hendrick Motorsports in a role that hasn't been revealed yet, but was confident the weekly competition will be a tough void to fill.

"I'm going to miss going out there and getting behind the wheel of the car and knowing that your input, verbally as well as physically, it makes a difference," he said. "It's about experiencing what it's like to pull into victory lane at Daytona, or Indianapolis, or winning a championship. That's just an amazing feeling."

Briefly

Lakers' Bryant suffered torn right rotator cuff on dunk

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—Kobe Bryant tore his right rotator cuff in the Los Angeles Lakers' latest defeat, the club announced Thursday.

Bryant injured his right shoulder in the second half of the Lakers' loss at New Orleans on Wednesday night when he drew the baseline for a two-handed dunk.

An MRI exam Thursday in San Antonio revealed the tear, and Bryant headed home to Los Angeles while the Lakers prepared to play the Spurs on Friday.

Lakers coach Byron Scott and the team declined to speculate on the severity of Bryant's injury, but many rotator cuff injuries require surgery and several months of rehabilitation.

Bryant briefly returned to the Lakers' game in New Orleans and played essentially with one arm after the injury, making a 14-foot jumper with his left hand. He is a right-handed shooter.

After the game, Bryant said it felt as if his shoulder "came out of joint a little bit" on the dunk.

"I felt fine when I went up, and didn't feel too good when I came down," he said.

In other NBA news:

■ Trail Blazers forward LaMarcus Aldridge said Thursday that he tore a ligament in his left thumb that will require surgery and that he could be out six to eight weeks.

Aldridge leads Portland with averages of 23.5 points and 10.4 rebounds and 1.18 blocks per game. He's one of just three NBA players averaging at least 23 points and 10 rebounds.

■ The Brooklyn Nets say Bosnian forward Mirza Teletovic is in a Los Angeles hospital with blood clots in his lungs and will miss the rest of the NBA season.

The 29-year-old Teletovic was taken there after he had shortness of breath during Thursday's game against the Clippers. He was given blood thinners to reduce the clots, and will remain in Los Angeles until he is cleared to travel.

Because the drugs slow the body's ability to stop bleeding, Teletovic has been ruled out for the rest of the season.

He is in his third year in the league, and is averaging 8.5 points and 4.9 rebounds this season.

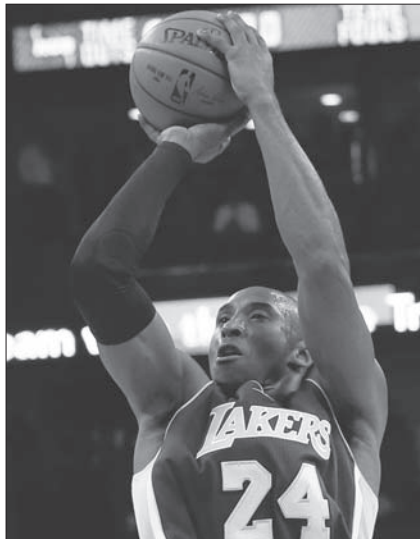
Pens' Crosby, Malkin to miss All-Star Game

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The NHL All-Star Game has just lost a little bit of its star power.

Pittsburgh forward Sidney Crosby now is joining teammate Evgeni Malkin in missing the NHL All-Star Game because of injuries. Goaltenders Pekka Rinne of Nashville already was set to miss the game with a knee injury, and Columbus goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky was replaced Thursday by St. Louis goalie Brian Elliott.

The NHL announced Predators rookie Filip Forsberg's addition Thursday to the All-Star Game. Forsberg already was headed to Columbus for the rookie portion of the weekend. He leads the Predators and all rookies with 40 points through 45 games. He also is plus-24, which is third overall in the NHL.

Forsberg joins Nashville captain Shea Weber and Predators coach Peter Laviolette in the All-Star Game.



JONATHAN BACHMAN/AP

Los Angeles guard Kobe Bryant tore his right rotator cuff during Wednesday's game against the Pelicans in New Orleans. While the Lakers have declined to speculate on the severity of Bryant's injury, many rotator cuff injuries require surgery and several months of rehabilitation.

NHL

Hockey, football share stage

All-Star Game hits Columbus amid euphoria over Ohio State

By RUSTY MILLER
The Associated Press

John Davidson has traveled the world playing, talking about and scouting professional hockey.

He says his current outpost is a great place that he few know about.

"Columbus, to me, in some ways, is a very well-kept secret," said Davidson, the director of hockey operations for the NHL's Blue Jackets.

That might change this weekend. The city and the Blue Jackets have a busy, busy few days in the spotlight.

Ohio's capital city will be the venue for this weekend's NHL All-Star Game, including the player draft on Friday night, a skills competition on Saturday and the game itself on Sunday at downtown's Nationwide Arena.

There are many other related events, drawing thousands of visitors and television viewers.

Meanwhile Ohio State, with its sprawling campus just a couple of miles from downtown, will celebrate its national championship in college football at massive Ohio Stadium on Saturday morning. Coach Urban Meyer and his players will speak to what's expected to be a huge crowd while accepting trophies for their 14-1 run to the title.

Gene Smith, the athletic director at Ohio State, considers it an

embarrassment of riches.

"When you think about our city and all the great things that have happened here over the years, this is probably one of those exemplar moments," he said. "The NHL All-Star Game and weekend activities, just by itself, is phenomenal. But then to be able to showcase the national championship, all the media attention for both of those events for our city, it's going to be unreal."

By Thursday morning, a sliding "hill" had been built on two lanes of the brick thoroughfare next to the hockey arena downtown, topped by tons of snow that had been trucked in. There was a line of dozens of kids waiting to slide and glide down the bumpy slope.

Nearly, just behind an old stone arch that is one of the city's symbols, a large ice rink sits outside. There are free skates

for the general public and the occasional hockey game. The skaters can warm up with coffee and hot chocolate at one of the nearby heated tents.

Months of planning has gone into the All-Star festivities. Columbus was originally picked in January 2012 to host the event the following year.

But management's lockout of the players disrupted that plan. NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman, however, made good on a promise to have Columbus host the game as soon as possible,

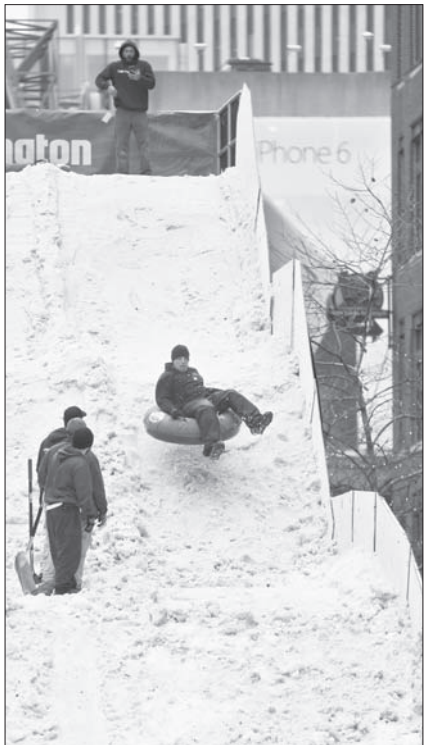
'This is one of the best opportunities to showcase our city to an international audience.'

Michael B. Coleman
Columbus mayor



BRYNN ANDERSON/AP

Ohio State wide receiver Michael Thomas, Jr., tries to break away from Alabama defensive lineman A'Shawn Robinson during the first half of the Sugar Bowl playoff semifinal game on Jan. 1. Ohio State will celebrate its national championship with a rally Saturday at Ohio Stadium as the city also hosts NHL All-Star Game weekend.



CHRIS RUSSELL, THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH/AP

Marketing Activations Group employee Aaron Wallace takes the first ride down a giant snow slide Wednesday on Nationwide Boulevard in Columbus, Ohio, as workers shape and shovel the snow in preparation for festivities around the NHL All-Star Game weekend.

awarding the city this year's event.

Columbus is also one of the finalists to host the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

Mayor Michael B. Coleman looks at all that's going on this weekend and sees it as a trial run.

"This is one of the best opportunities to showcase our city to an international audience," Coleman said. "They can see how Columbus pulls off big events, and they can get a better idea of who we are as a city."

Of course, not much wiggle room was permitted for the plans for Ohio State's national championship celebration. The title wasn't decided until Jan. 12 in Arlington, Texas, when the Buckeyes beat Oregon, 42-20.

Even though the football team's

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

| Tampa Bay | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Detroit | 47 | 27 | 11 | 9 | 63 | 139 | 119 |
| Montreal | 45 | 29 | 13 | 3 | 61 | 129 | 106 |
| Boston | 48 | 25 | 16 | 7 | 57 | 126 | 121 |
| Florida | 44 | 20 | 14 | 10 | 50 | 107 | 122 |
| Ottawa | 46 | 19 | 20 | 9 | 47 | 126 | 128 |
| Toronto | 48 | 22 | 23 | 3 | 47 | 142 | 150 |
| Buffalo | 47 | 18 | 30 | 3 | 31 | 89 | 167 |

Metropolitan Division

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|
| N.Y. Islanders | 46 | 21 | 23 | 2 | 43 | 151 | 129 |
| Pittsburgh | 46 | 26 | 12 | 8 | 60 | 138 | 117 |
| N.Y. Rangers | 44 | 27 | 13 | 4 | 58 | 134 | 106 |
| Washington | 46 | 24 | 13 | 9 | 57 | 137 | 120 |
| Philadelphia | 48 | 19 | 22 | 7 | 45 | 130 | 146 |
| Columbus | 45 | 20 | 22 | 3 | 43 | 142 | 162 |
| New Jersey | 47 | 17 | 22 | 8 | 42 | 107 | 134 |
| Carolina | 46 | 16 | 25 | 5 | 37 | 96 | 120 |

Western Conference

| Nashville | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| St. Louis | 46 | 29 | 13 | 4 | 62 | 148 | 111 |
| Chicago | 47 | 30 | 15 | 2 | 62 | 148 | 108 |
| Winnipeg | 48 | 26 | 14 | 8 | 60 | 135 | 117 |
| Colorado | 48 | 20 | 18 | 10 | 50 | 125 | 137 |
| Dallas | 46 | 21 | 18 | 7 | 49 | 144 | 151 |
| Minnesota | 46 | 20 | 20 | 6 | 46 | 128 | 137 |

Central Division

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Anaheim | 47 | 31 | 10 | 6 | 68 | 139 | 124 |
| San Jose | 48 | 25 | 17 | 7 | 56 | 131 | 132 |
| Vancouver | 45 | 26 | 16 | 3 | 55 | 124 | 114 |
| Calgary | 47 | 25 | 19 | 3 | 53 | 126 | 125 |
| Los Angeles | 47 | 20 | 15 | 12 | 52 | 129 | 126 |
| Arizona | 47 | 18 | 25 | 3 | 37 | 105 | 156 |
| Edmonton | 47 | 12 | 26 | 9 | 33 | 109 | 158 |

Pacific Division

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Edmonton | 47 | 31 | 10 | 6 | 68 | 139 | 124 |
| San Jose | 48 | 25 | 17 | 7 | 56 | 131 | 132 |
| Vancouver | 45 | 26 | 16 | 3 | 55 | 124 | 114 |
| Calgary | 47 | 25 | 19 | 3 | 53 | 126 | 125 |
| Los Angeles | 47 | 20 | 15 | 12 | 52 | 129 | 126 |
| Arizona | 47 | 18 | 25 | 3 | 37 | 105 | 156 |
| Edmonton | 47 | 12 | 26 | 9 | 33 | 109 | 158 |

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Tuesday's games

Edmonton 5, Washington 4, SO
Detroit 5, Minnesota 4, SO
N.Y. Rangers 3, Ottawa 2, OT
Philadelphia 3, Pittsburgh 2, OT
Montreal 2, Nashville 1, OT
Tampa Bay 4, Vancouver 1
Chicago 6, Arizona 1
Boston 3, Dallas 1

Wednesday's games

Chicago 3, Pittsburgh 2, SO
Colorado 3, Boston 2, SO
Ottawa 4, Toronto 3
Winnipeg 4, Columbus 0
Anaheim 6, Calgary 3
San Jose 4, Los Angeles 2

Thursday's games

No games scheduled
Friday's games
No games scheduled
Saturday's games
No games scheduled
Sunday's games
All-Star Game in Columbus, Ohio
Monday's games
No games scheduled

All-Star Game rosters

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Squads for NHL All-Star Game on Jan. 25. A draft on Friday will determine which players will play on which teams.

(X-Voted in by the fans)

Forwards
Ryan Getzlaf, Anaheim Ducks
Patrice Bergeron, Boston Bruins
Zdenko Chara, Buffalo Sabres
Patrick Kane, Chicago Blackhawks
Jonathan Toews, Chicago Blackhawks
Nick Foligno, Columbus Blue Jackets
Ryan Johansen, Columbus Blue Jackets
Tyler Seguin, Dallas Stars
Ryan Nystrom, Edmonton Oilers
Anze Kopitar, Los Angeles Kings
Patrick Elias, New Jersey Devils
John Tavares, New York Islanders
Rick Nash, New York Rangers
Nikolai Khabibulin, Ottawa Senators
Claude Giroux, Philadelphia Flyers
Jakub Voracek, Philadelphia Flyers
Sidney Crosby, Pittsburgh Penguins
Vladimir Tarasenko, St. Louis Blues
Steven Stamkos, Tampa Bay Lightning
Tyler Johnson, Tampa Bay Lightning
Phil Kessel, Toronto Maple Leafs
Radim Vrbata, Vancouver Canucks
Alex Ovechkin, Washington Capitals

Defensesmen

Oliver Ekman-Larsson, Arizona Coyotes
Mark Giordano, Calgary Flames
Justin Faulk, Carolina Hurricanes
X-Duncan Keith, Chicago Blackhawks
Brent Seabrook, Chicago Blackhawks
Erik Johnson, Colorado Avalanche
Drew Doughty, Los Angeles Kings
Ryan Suter, Minnesota Wild
Shea Weber, Nashville Predators
Brent Burns, San Jose Sharks
Kevin Shattenkirk, St. Louis Blues
Dustin Byfuglien, Winnipeg Jets
Sergei Bobrovsky, Columbus Blue Jackets
Corey Crawford, Chicago Blackhawks
Enemy Howard, Detroit Red Wings
Roberto Luongo, Florida Panthers
Carey Price, Montreal Canadiens
Pekka Rinne, Nashville Predators
6 Rookies in Skills Competition
Johnny Gaudreau, Calgary Flames
Aron Ekblad, Florida Panthers
Nathan Aspinall, Los Angeles Kings
Filip Forsberg, Nashville Predators
Mike Hoffman, Ottawa Senators
Jonathan Brodzinski, Tampa Bay Lightning

NBA

Roundup

Rose, Bulls get past San Antonio

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Derrick Rose scored 22 points as the struggling Chicago Bulls beat the San Antonio Spurs 104-81 on Thursday night.

The Bulls came away with a much-needed win after dropping six of eight and handed the defending champions their most lopsided loss of the season.

"It shows what we're capable of doing," said Pau Gasol, who added 12 points and 17 rebounds after being voted to his fifth All-Star Game and first as a starter.

The Central division leaders broke this one open in the third quarter, outscoring the Spurs 31-20, and snapped San Antonio's four-game winning streak.

Rose, who called out his team after Monday's loss at Cleveland, backed it up by going hard to the rim and hitting nine of 16 shots. He led six Bulls in double figures.

The Spurs' Kawhi Leonard scored all of his team-leading 16 points in the first half.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

| Atlantic Division | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|------|
| | W | L | Pct |
| Toronto | 27 | 15 | .643 |
| Brooklyn | 18 | 25 | .419 |
| Boston | 16 | 28 | .350 |
| Philadelphia | 8 | 34 | .190 |
| New York | 9 | 36 | .163 |

| Southeast Division | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|------|
| | W | L | Pct |
| Atlanta | 24 | 18 | .571 |
| Washington | 24 | 18 | .571 |
| Miami | 18 | 24 | .429 |
| Charlotte | 18 | 25 | .417 |
| Orlando | 15 | 30 | .333 |

| Central Division | | | |
|------------------|----|----|------|
| | W | L | Pct |
| Chicago | 28 | 16 | .636 |
| Cleveland | 24 | 20 | .545 |
| Milwaukee | 21 | 21 | .500 |
| San Antonio | 17 | 25 | .405 |
| Indiana | 15 | 29 | .341 |

Western Conference

| Southwest Division | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|------|
| | W | L | Pct |
| Memphis | 30 | 12 | .714 |
| Dallas | 30 | 13 | .698 |
| Houston | 29 | 14 | .674 |
| San Antonio | 27 | 17 | .614 |
| New Orleans | 21 | 21 | .500 |

| Northwest Division | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|------|
| | W | L | Pct |
| Portland | 31 | 13 | .705 |
| Oklahoma City | 22 | 22 | .500 |
| Denver | 24 | 20 | .545 |
| Utah | 15 | 28 | .349 |
| Minnesota | 15 | 27 | .323 |

| Pacific Division | | | |
|------------------|----|----|------|
| | W | L | Pct |
| Golden State | 26 | 16 | .615 |
| L.A. Clippers | 29 | 14 | .674 |
| L.A. Lakers | 21 | 22 | .489 |
| Sacramento | 16 | 26 | .381 |
| L.A. Lakers | 12 | 31 | .279 |

Thursday's games

Chicago 104, San Antonio 81

Utah 101, Milwaukee 99

L.A. Lakers at San Antonio

L.A. Clippers 123, Brooklyn 84

Friday's games

Toronto at Philadelphia

Oklahoma City at Atlanta

Charlotte at Cleveland

Oklahoma City at New York

Portland at Dallas

New Orleans at Minnesota

L.A. Lakers at San Antonio

Houston at Phoenix

San Antonio at Denver

Sacramento at Golden State

Saturday's games

New York at Charlotte

Detroit at Milwaukee

Philadelphia at Memphis

Brooklyn at Utah

Washington at Portland

Jazz 101, Bucks 99: Gordon Hayward scored 13 of his game-high 24 points in the fourth quarter and visiting Utah held on for the win as Milwaukee missed its last five shots in the closing minute.

The Jazz appeared to be in control after a 15-3 run, taking a 101-92 lead on two free throws by Hayward with 2:35 remaining. But the Bucks pulled within the final score on Jared Dudley's three-pointer from the top right with 1:29 left.

The Bucks had a final opportunity when an officials review awarded them the ball out of bounds under the basket with 7.1 seconds left. Brandon Knight missed a jumper with two seconds left and Zaza Pachulia missed the tip-in at the buzzer.

Celtics 90, Trail Blazers 89: Evan Turner hit a three-pointer with 1.9 seconds left and visiting Boston overcame short-handed Portland.

Avery Bradley had 18 points to lead the Celtics, who snapped a

three-game losing streak. Jared Sullinger added 17 points and nine rebounds.

The Blazers were hit before the game with the news that three-time All-Star LaMarcus Aldridge had torn a ligament in his left thumb and would need

surgery. The 6-foot-11 power forward is expected to miss six to eight weeks.

Clippers 123, Nets 84: Blake Griffin scored 22 of his 24 points in the first half as Los Angeles cruised to its largest victory ever over visiting Brooklyn.

J.J. Redick and Jamal Crawford added 17 points each, DeAndre Jordan had 14 points and 12 rebounds, and Chris Paul had a season-high 17 assists for the Clippers, who have won nine of 12.

Mason Plumlee led the Nets with 16 points.

Chicago Bulls guard Derrick Rose looks to pass past the defense of San Antonio Spurs guard Danny Green (14) and Tim Duncan during the first half of Thursday night's game in Chicago.

three-game losing streak. Jared Sullinger added 17 points and nine rebounds.

J.J. Redick and Jamal Crawford added 17 points each, DeAndre Jordan had 14 points and 12 rebounds, and Chris Paul had a season-high 17 assists for the Clippers, who have won nine of 12.

Mason Plumlee led the Nets with 16 points.

Thursday

Clippers 123, Nets 84

BROOKLYN — Johnson 4-12 0-0 9, Plumlee 6-9 4-11 16, Lopez 1-3 2-2 4, Jack 3-11 0-7, Bogdanovic 0-1 0-0 0, Anderson 0-2 0-0, Morris 5-13 0-11, Teletov 0-3 0-0, Karasav 1-4 0-0 5, J.J. Redick 4-8 4-8 11, Brown 2-7 4-6, Jefferson 4-10 1-2 9, Totals 35-88 14-28 84.

L.A. CLIPPERS — Barnes 3-8 0-0 8, Griffin 10-14 3-24, D.J. Williams 7-7 0-2 14, Paul 2-5 1-1 6, Redick 6-8 2-17, Crawford 4-7 0-4 9, Turkoglu 2-3 0-5, Davis 4-10 2-10, Wilcox 2-4 0-4, Jones 1-2 0-2, Udoh 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 48-83 14-21 121.

Brooklyn — Johnson 4-12 0-0 9, Plumlee 6-9 4-11 16, Lopez 1-3 2-2 4, Jack 3-11 0-7, Bogdanovic 0-1 0-0 0, Anderson 0-2 0-0, Morris 5-13 0-11, Teletov 0-3 0-0, Karasav 1-4 0-0 5, J.J. Redick 4-8 4-8 11, Brown 2-7 4-6, Jefferson 4-10 1-2 9, Totals 35-88 14-28 84.

Three-Point Goals — Brooklyn 4-21 (Karasav 1-1, Jack 1-2, Johnson 1-4, Morris 1-4, Jefferson 0-1, Bogdanovic 0-1, Anderson 0-2, Teletov 0-3, Brown 0-3), L.A. Clippers 11-25 (Redick 3-4, Barnes 2-4, Crawford 2-5, Turkoglu 1-2, Rivers 1-2, Paul 1-3, Hawes 1-4, Wilcox 0-1), Fouled Out — None, Rebounds — Brooklyn 50 (Jordan 11), L.A. Clippers 57 (D.Jordan 12), Assists — Brooklyn 17 (Morris 4), L.A. Clippers 41 (Paul 17), Total Fouls — Brooklyn 14, L.A. Clippers 17. Technicals — Brooklyn delay of game. A — 19,600 (19,600).

Celtics 90, Trail Blazers 89

BOSTON — Crowder 1-5 0-0 2, Sullinger 8-15 0-17, Bass 2-3 0-3 13, Turner 4-9 0-10, Bradley 8-16 1-2 18, Zeller 3-6 1-1 7, Wright 0-0 0-0, Olynyk 2-6 1-9 5, Portland 4-5 0-9, Thornton 4-9 0-9, Totals 39-86 5-30.

PORTLAND — Batum 0-0 0-0 0, Robinson 4-7 1-3 9, Kaman 6-11 1-2 13, Lillard 8-15 0-21, Matthews 1-2 0-0 2, Aldridge 3-7 0-7 3, Blake 0-2 0-3, Claver 3-5 0-5, McCollum 4-10 1-10, Barton 0-2 0-0 2, Wright 0-3 1-2 1, Totals 33-89 14-19 89.

Boston — Crowder 1-5 0-0 2, Sullinger 8-15 0-17, Bass 2-3 0-3 13, Turner 4-9 0-10, Bradley 8-16 1-2 18, Zeller 3-6 1-1 7, Wright 0-0 0-0, Olynyk 2-6 1-9 5, Portland 4-5 0-9, Thornton 4-9 0-9, Totals 39-86 5-30.

Three-Point Goals — Boston 7-19 (Turner 2-4, Prince 1-1, Thornton 1-2, Bradley 1-3, Olynyk 1-3, Sullinger 1-5, Smart 0-1), Portland 9-28 (Matthews 4-8, Lillard 2-5, Claver 1-2, McCollum 1-3, Leonard 1-2, Wright 0-2, Blake 0-2, Batum 0-2), Fouled Out — None, Rebounds — Boston 40 (Lillard 10), Portland 51 (Robinson 12), Assists — Boston 23 (Turner 8), Portland 16 (Lillard 7), Total Fouls — Boston 15, Portland 13. Technicals — Boston Bench. A — 19,567 (19,580).

Jazz 101, Bucks 99

UTAH — Hayward 6-10 10-12 24, Kanter 8-15 6-23, Gobert 5-7 4-6 14, Exum 5-12 0-0 15, Ingles 2-5 0-0 6, Burke 4-11 0-10 10, Booker 1-4 1-2 4, Millsap 1-4 2-2 5, Totals 32-71 23-28 101.

MILWAUKEE — Antetokounmpo 5-10 3-3 13, Iyetsova 3-6 0-0 7, Pachulia 4-14 2-2 10, Knight 6-16 4-5 16, Middleton 3-6 0-0 7, Bayless 3-7 0-0 6, Henson 2-4 0-0 4, O'Bryant 4-8 0-8, Mayo 6-10 0-12, Dudley 6-10 1-2 16, Martin 0-1 0-0 0, Totals 42-10-12 99.

Utah — Hayward 6-10 10-12 24, Kanter 8-15 6-23, Gobert 5-7 4-6 14, Exum 5-12 0-0 15, Ingles 2-5 0-0 6, Burke 4-11 0-10 10, Booker 1-4 1-2 4, Millsap 1-4 2-2 5, Totals 32-71 23-28 101.

Three-Point Goals — Utah 14-31 (Exum 5-10, Ingles 2-5, Hayward 2-3, Burke 2-7, Booker 1-2, Kanter 1-2, Millsap 1-3), Milwaukee 5-13 (Dudley 3-5, Middleton 2-5, Bayless 0-0), Totals 18-31 (18,177).

Bulls 104, Spurs 81

SAN ANTONIO — Leonard 5-11 5-16 26, Duncan 2-7 2-2 6, Splitter 2-5 0-4 4, Parker 4-9 0-9 9, D.Green 3-6 0-8, Ginobili 1-5 0-2 2, Mills 3-11 4-12, Diaw 1-9 0-2, Baynes 0-1 0-0 0, Bonner 1-1 1-1 3, Joseph 4-7 3-5 11, Green 4-7 0-8, Ayres 0-1 0-0 0, Totals 30-81 15-18 81.

San Antonio — Leonard 5-11 5-16 26, Duncan 2-7 2-2 6, Splitter 2-5 0-4 4, Parker 4-9 0-9 9, D.Green 3-6 0-8, Ginobili 1-5 0-2 2, Mills 3-11 4-12, Diaw 1-9 0-2, Baynes 0-1 0-0 0, Bonner 1-1 1-1 3, Joseph 4-7 3-5 11, Green 4-7 0-8, Ayres 0-1 0-0 0, Totals 30-81 15-18 81.

Three-Point Goals — San Antonio 6-21 (D.Green 2-3, Mills 2-6, Parker 1-2, Leonard 1-2, J.Green 0-2, Diaw 0-3, Ginobili 0-3), Chicago 6-19 (Butler 2-2, Brooks 2-3, Rose 2-4, Hinch 0-2, Mirovic 0-2, Snell 0-6), Fouled Out — None, Rebounds — San Antonio 47 (Duncan, Splitter 7), Chicago 53 (Gasol 17), Assists — San Antonio 17 (Mills 4), Chicago 19 (Rose 5), Total Fouls — San Antonio 24, Chicago 25, 21,648 (20,917).

Calendar

Feb. 13-15 — All-Star weekend, New York.
Feb. 15 — Trade deadline (3 p.m. EST).
Feb. 19-19 — Last day of regular season.
April 18 — Playoffs begin.

Gasols are 1st brothers voted All-Star starters

By BRIAN MAHONEY

The Associated Press

Pau and Marc Gasol of Spain have been voted the first brothers to start in the NBA All-Star Game, while Toronto's Kyle Lowry made a late surge in fan balloting and will start for the Eastern Conference.

Lowry passed Dwyane Wade and will start alongside Washington's John Wall, the first time the East has had two first-time starters at guard since 2000.

Golden State's Stephen Curry made his own late surge to pass LeBron James as the overall leading vote-getter, the league announced on Thursday.

Kobe Bryant was also voted to start at West guard, though that's in jeopardy because of a torn right rotator cuff.

Chicago's Pau Gasol will start up front for the East along with James and Carmelo Anthony for the Feb. 15 game in New York.

Memphis' Marc Gasol joins New Orleans' Anthony Davis and the Los Angeles Clippers' Blake Griffin in the West frontcourt.

Tom and Dick Van Arsdale played in the 1970 and 1971 games, but the Gasols — once traded for each other — are the first brothers to be chosen to start.

"Knowing that I will be facing my brother Pau for the opening tip will be a true accomplishment for me and my family, and a memory I will cherish for the rest of my career," Marc Gasol said in a statement through the Memphis Grizzlies. "It holds special meaning to be voted in by the fans, and I look forward to representing my teammates, the organization, the city of Memphis, and entire Mid-South community and Grizzlies fans across the world."

Both Gasols were among the leaders in all the balloting updates, but Lowry was running more than 100,000 votes behind Wade, a perennial All-Star and fan favorite, when the last results were released. Fans rewarded him for his hard-nosed play in leading the Raptors to a huge lead in the Atlantic Division with his first All-Star appearance.

Wall earned his first last year, and now he's earned his first start. The East hasn't had both of its guards making their first start since Philadelphia's Allen Iverson and Charlotte's Eddie Jones in 2000.

Fans had to vote for two guards and three frontcourt players. The reserves will be picked by the head coaches in each conference and be announced next Thursday.

The star of the NBA league's Golden State Warriors, Curry ended up with more than 1.5 million votes, more than 42,000 ahead of James, who had a 13,285-vote lead at the last update.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



ANDREW SHURTLEFF/AP

Virginia forward Anthony Gill dunks against Georgia Tech forward Quinton Stephens during Thursday's game in Charlottesville, Va. Virginia defeated Georgia Tech 57-28.

Top 25 capsules

No. 23 Hoosiers dismantle No. 13 Terrapins

The Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Indiana sent a message to the Big Ten on Thursday night.

It's back — and it's not going away any time soon.

Kevin "Yogi" Ferrell scored 24 points, James Blackmon Jr. added 22 and the 23rd-ranked Hoosiers made a season high 15 three-pointers to stun No. 13 Maryland 89-70.

"They have great respect for Maryland, we have great respect for Maryland, they knew it was a big deal and they wanted to see where they stood," coach Tom Crean said.

The Hoosiers (15-4, 5-1) completely dismantled one of the league's best defenses by shooting 60 percent from the field and 15 of 22 on threes. Indiana has won four straight overall, seven straight home games against Top 25 teams and a league-high 19 games over ranked foes since 2011-12, including four this season.

Ferrell was 7-for-8 from beyond the arc. Blackmon had five rebounds to go with three threes. Troy Williams finished with 16 points and seven rebounds, and the Hoosiers moved into a first-place tie with No. 6 Wisconsin.

Jake Layman finished with 13 points, Jared Nickens had 12 and leading scorer Melo Trimble managed just 10 on a night Maryland (17-3, 5-2) gave up a season-high point total.

No. 3 Gonzaga 68, Saint Mary's 47: Kevin Pangos scored 14 points as the Bulldogs cruised past the visiting Gaels to take sole possession of first place in the West Coast Conference.

Przemek Karnowski added 12 points and Kyle Wiltjer 11 for Gonzaga (19-1, 8-0 West Coast), whose only loss this year is at No. 7 Arizona. This is the best start in program history.

Brad Waldow scored 14 points to lead Saint Mary's (15-4, 7-1), which saw its nine-game winning streak snapped.

No. 7 Arizona 89, Stanford 82: Stanley Johnson had 19 points and seven rebounds and the Wildcats handed the Cardinal its first home loss of the season.

Arizona (17-2, 5-1 Pac-12) tied the game at 52 with 14:34 left on Brandon Ashley's three-point play and went ahead on his three-pointer the next time down the floor in a decisive sequence that helped the Wildcats pull away.

The Cardinal (13-5, 4-2)

No. 2 Cavaliers shut down Yellow Jackets

Brogden leads team with 13 as Virginia stretches home winning streak to 21

By HANK KURZ JR.
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Virginia coach Tony Bennett and his team call it a "gap," a string of three consecutive possessions for the opponent in which the No. 2 Cavaliers yield no points. It might be time for Bennett's team to increase the standard.

Malcolm Brogden scored 13 points to lead a very balanced offense and Virginia ran its home winning streak to 21 games with a 57-28 victory against Georgia Tech on Thursday night. It marked the third time this season the Cavaliers have held a team under 30 points in a game, and it featured many of those three-possession gaps the team has come to celebrate.

"We build on each stop we get and that turns into our offense, really gets our offense going, but I also think our fans get into it," Brogden said of the roar that builds as a foe looks for a shot. "They love us getting stops as much as scoring."

Nine other players scored for the Cavaliers (18-0, 6-0 Atlantic Coast Conference), who pretty much broke the game open with a 10-0 first-half run. The burst turned a 13-10 lead into a 13-point margin that never again dipped into single digits.

"Those are our best games because guys are just getting into the rhythm and

making that extra pass and seeing each other," Justin Anderson said. "It was good for everyone to be involved."

Virginia led 28-16 at halftime and, at the midpoint of the second half, Georgia Tech (9-3, 0-6) had added just four more points and trailed 41-20 as Cavaliers reserves started anticipating a chance to play. It came in the final minutes.

Georgia Tech coach Brian Gregory said Virginia's defense was good in the first half, and "in the second half, it was another level. ... What they do is every open shot you get, you have to make and we struggled to make open shots tonight."

Georgia Tech became the third team held under 30 points and the ninth team in 18 games held to 20 or fewer points in the first half against the Cavaliers this season. Virginia also lowered its nation-leading scoring defense average of 50.6 points.

The game was the first of two straight for Virginia against teams seeking their first ACC victory of the season. The Cavaliers are traveling to Blacksburg on Sunday to face Virginia Tech (8-10, 0-5), then will wait six days before welcoming No. 5 Duke for a much-anticipated game at John Paul Jones Arena.

This one had very little anticipation, and was Virginia's 14th double-digit victory this season.



MICHAEL CONNOFF/AP

Indiana forward Collin Hartman (30) blocks the shot of Maryland guard Melo Trimble in the second half on Thursday in Bloomington, Ind. The Hoosiers defeated Maryland 89-70.

dropped to 9-1 at home in Maples Pavilion and had a three-game winning streak snapped with just their second defeat in nine games.

No. 8 Notre Dame 85, Virginia Tech 60: Jerian Grant scored 18 points to lead the Fighting Irish past the host Hokies.

Grant shot 6-for-9 from the floor, including two three-pointers, as the Fighting Irish (18-2, 6-1 ACC) won their third straight game. Pat Connaughton added 17 points and hit five three-pointers on a night when the Fighting Irish shot 12-for-26 from three-point range.

Ahmed Hill scored 13 points for Virginia Tech (8-10, 0-5), which lost for the fifth straight time.

DePaul 64, No. 24 Seton Hall 60: Billy Garrett Jr. scored 14 points before fouling out and Myke Henry also had 14 to help the visiting Blue Demons rally to edge the Pirates.

It was DePaul's first win on the road against Seton Hall, and it snapped a 51-game losing streak for the Blue Demons (11-8, 5-2) against ranked teams — dating to a 2008 win over No. 17 Villanova.

Angel Delgado set career highs with 19 points and 19 rebounds for the Pirates (13-5, 3-3).

AUSTRALIAN OPEN



BERNAT ARMANQUE/AP

Italy's Andreas Seppi hits a forehand return to Switzerland's Roger Federer during their third-round match Friday at the Australian Open in Melbourne, Australia. Seppi won in four sets.



BERNAT ARMANQUE/AP

Switzerland's Roger Federer reacts as he plays Italy's Andreas Seppi. Federer won't be in at least the semifinals of the year's first Grand Slam even for the first time since 2004.

Italy's Seppi eliminates Federer in third round

No. 2 seed Sharapova advances in straight sets

The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — For the first time in a dozen years, Roger Federer won't be featuring in the Australian Open semifinals after his upset third-round loss to Andreas Seppi on Friday.

The 17-time Grand Slam champion had never lost to Seppi in 10 previous meetings, but made some uncharacteristic errors including nine double-faults — one to surrender a mini break in the last tiebreaker — in the 6-4, 7-6 (5), 4-6, 7-6 (5) defeat.

Seppi, a 30-year-old Italian who had only advanced beyond the second round once at his nine previous trips to Melbourne Park, held his nerve despite some withering winners from Federer, who registered his 1,000th career match win when he collected the Brisbane International title earlier this month to open the season.

Federer also had a 4-1 lead in the second-set tiebreaker and let it slip away.

"I knew how important that second-set tiebreaker was — clearly that hurt, losing that one," Federer said. "It just broke me to lose that second set. And actually the fourth, I should win it, too. Just a brutal couple of sets to lose there. The end wasn't pretty."

Federer has won the Australian title four times, and had reached the semifinals or better at Melbourne Park every year since winning the championship for the first time in 2004. This was his earliest exit in Australia since 2001, when he also lost in the third round.

"I had to believe that I could win," said Seppi, who said he stuck out his racket and hoped for the best on match point — a forehand that sailed past Federer and landed in the corner. "I was just trying to stay relaxed and just focusing on every shot and to breathe calm and don't get nervous."

"I think I did pretty well. Very well. I'm very happy I could manage the emotions."

The 33-year-old Federer walked over to Seppi's side of the net to shake his hand after the match, and applauded the crowd before he left the arena with his head lowered. It was only the second time in his last 43 Grand Slam tournaments that the Swiss star failed to at least reach the fourth round.

Seppi will almost certainly get another match on Rod Laver Arena for his fourth-round meeting with Australian teenager Nick Kyrgios, who shrugged off concern over a nosedive to beat Malek Jaziri of Tunisia 6-3, 7-6 (6), 6-1. Kyrgios has form in the fourth round, beating then No. 1-ranked Rafael Nadal at that stage at Wimbledon last year.

Three-time Australian Open finalist Andy Murray beat Joao Sousa 6-1, 6-1, 7-5 to set up a fourth-round clash with No. 10 Grigor Dimitrov, who had a tough third-rounder against 2006 Australian Open finalist Marcos Baghdatis before winning 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Seventh-seeded Tomas Berdych needed eight match points before beating Viktor Troicki 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 and will next play Bernard Tomic, who beat fellow Australian Sam Groth 6-4, 7-6 (8), 6-3.

No. 14 Kevin Anderson beat No. 24 Richard Gasquet 6-4, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (6) and will face the winner of the Nadal vs. Dudi Sela match.

On the women's side, No. 2-ranked Maria Sharapova needed just 61 minutes for her 6-1, 6-1 win over No. 31 Zarina Diyas and will next meet No. 21 Peng Shuai.

At a glance

Friday

MELBOURNE, Australia — A look at the Australian Open on Friday:

Weather: Sunny, high of 77 degrees.

Attendance: Day: 46,458; Night: 28,290; Total: 74,748.

Men's seeded winners: No. 3 Rafael Nadal, No. 6 Andy Murray, No. 7 Tomas Berdych, No. 10 Grigor Dimitrov, No. 14 Kevin Anderson.

Men's seeded losers: No. 2 Roger Federer, No. 24 Richard Gasquet.

Women's seeded winners: No. 2 Maria Sharapova, No. 3 Simona Halep, No. 7 Eugenie Bouchard, No. 10 Ekaterina Makarova, No. 21 Peng Shuai.

Women's seeded losers: No. 14 Sara Errani, No. 22 Karolina Pliskova, No. 31 Zarina Diyas.

Stat of the day: 12 — the number of years since Roger Federer had not featured in a semifinal or better at Melbourne Park, and which ended with his third-round loss to Andreas Seppi.

Quote of the day: "The end wasn't pretty," Federer.

Featured matches Saturday: No. 1 Serena Williams vs. No. 26 Elina Svitolina, No. 1 Novak Djokovic vs. Fernando Verdasco, No. 4 Petra Kvitová vs. Madison Keys, No. 4 Stan Wawrinka vs. Jarkko Nieminen, No. 5 Kei Nishikori vs. Steve Johnson.

Forecast for Saturday: Partly cloudy, high of 81.

— The Associated Press

"I think I rebounded really well," Sharapova said. "I had a good hit yesterday and just kind of thought a little bit about what I wanted to try to achieve tonight no matter who I played."

"I tried to be a bit more aggressive... she can be a tough, tough player to play against if you give her the time to charge down the line like she likes to do, step down and hit flat, low. So she has that capability."

Eugenie Bouchard struggled through a scrappy opening set before getting on top in a 7-5, 6-0 third-round win over Caroline Garcia that featured 10 breaks of serve.

"Yeah, I don't think it was the prettiest tennis out there," said Bouchard, who reached the semifinals in her first trip to Melbourne Park last year and went on to make the semifinals or better at two of the other three majors in a breakthrough season.

Third-seeded Simona Halep advanced with a 6-4, 7-5 win over Bethanie Mattek-Sands, missing twice when she served for the match in the eighth and 10th games before finally serving out.

Halep, who opened the season by winning the Shenzhen Open in China, will next play Yanina Wickmayer, who beat No. 14-seeded Sara Errani 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

No. 10 Ekaterina Makarova advanced earlier with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over No. 22 Karolina Pliskova.

NFL

Owner: Browns have to find answer at QB

By TOM WITHERS
The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Browns owner Jimmy Haslam has one goal this offseason. It's the same one as last year.

"We've got to get a quarterback and got to get it fixed," he said.

Speaking at the Greater Cleveland Sports Awards where he appeared on stage with Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert and Indians owner Paul Dolan, Haslam said the Browns remain committed to finding a franchise quarterback. He said all options are open to find a starter for next season and Haslam has no idea if Johnny Manziel is the long-term answer.

The Browns have had no luck at quarterback since returning as an expansion franchise in 1999. Cleveland has gone through 22 different starters in the past 16 seasons, and the team's inability to land a franchise QB in the draft or free agency may best underscore years of losing.

Haslam won't stop until the Browns find their answer at the game's most important position.

"You can look at the teams whether they're in the final eight, the final four or the final two, you've got to have a really good quarterback," Haslam said, "and our situation as Coach Pettine says is still muddy and we don't know who our quarterback is going to be next year. What I would say to our fans is we're going to continue to work really hard to find that quarterback who can make us a championship team. We're going to work hard 'til we get a quarterback who can help us win and win

consistently, which we've stated since Day 1 is our goal.

"And it's not easy, but we understand it's the mission and we're going to work hard at it," he added.

Haslam, who spent time backstage talking with Ohio State's national-championship winning quarterback Cardale Jones, echoed earlier comments by Browns coach Mike Pettine and new offensive coordinator John DeFilippo that the Browns don't know if their quarterback is on the roster.

"We don't know yet," said Haslam.

Last season, the Browns were in the play-off race before starter Brian Hoyer struggled down the stretch and was benched in favor of Manziel. Hoyer, who started 13 games and led the Browns to 10 wins in two seasons, is eligible for free agency in March. Haslam did not rule out the possibility that Hoyer would be brought back.

As for Manziel, the hyped first-round pick, he played poorly in two starts, raising questions about his future in Cleveland. Manziel was also a distraction away from the field as his weekend getaways and late-night antics became a distraction.

Haslam made it clear the Browns will demand more of Manziel, who went 18-for-35 for 175 yards and two picks.

"Johnny has to show on and off the field he can be a professional," Haslam said. "He knows that. Everybody in the organization has told him that. I'll be up to Flip and Pett to decide whether he can be the kind of quarterback we need him to be. He knows what we expect of him on and off the field and it's up to him to prove he can do that."



PHIL MASTURZO, AKRON BEACON JOURNAL/TNS

Cleveland rookie quarterback Johnny Manziel had a less-than-impressive debut after taking over for Brian Hoyer as the starter late in the season.

Key: Irvin's improvement helped him evolve from pass rusher



SCOTT EKLUND/AP

Seattle linebacker Bruce Irvin, left, celebrates with DeShawn Shead after Irvin returned an interception for a touchdown against St. Louis on Dec. 18 in Seattle. Once thought to be a risky first-round draft pick and a one-trick pony in the NFL that could only rush the passer, Bruce Irvin has developed into a defensive player that never leaves the field.

FROM BACK PAGE

During passing situations, Irvin gets to put his hand on the ground and do his favorite thing in football: rush the quarterback.

It's a scenario that works for the Seahawks and one no one could have anticipated when Irvin entered the NFL.

"It makes me happy. That was the biggest knock on me that I was situational and I couldn't play the run," Irvin said. "These coaches, Pete (Carroll) and (general manager) John (Schneider), they never wavered, they never pulled the plug on me and they kept believing in me. ... I can't ask for a better supporting cast and a better situation than the one I'm in right now. I just have to continue to keep getting better and not let those guys down."

Irvin is at the end of his third season, but early in Year 2 his future seemed in question. He had played mostly as an undersized pass-rushing defensive end his rookie season and while he was successful at getting to the quarterback, he also got pushed around in run defense. Seattle's coaches wanted to keep it simple for him at first and not push him to learn multiple positions.

"When we went after him, we thought he would be a very special pass rusher because of his terrific speed," Carroll said. "We thought he would have the ability to do other things beyond that and in time, it took

us a little while, we tried to make it easy for him at first and left him at the Leo spot. As we grew with him, we expanded with him."

Seattle started transitioning Irvin to linebacker at the start of his second season. He was suspended four games for using performance-enhancing substances, but Seattle stuck with its plan. The Seahawks were convinced their best defensive alignment was with K.J. Wright at weakside linebacker and Irvin as their future on the strengths.

Irvin believes that if he was with any other team, he'd still just be a situational player.

Irvin is far from a finished product as a linebacker, but he's managed to retain his pass-rush ability. Irvin finished second in the regular season with seven sacks for Seattle, and he'll likely be getting plenty of opportunities to try to get to Tom Brady against New England in the Super Bowl. When the teams played during the 2012 season in Seattle, the Patriots put the ball in the air 58 times, although their run game is more consistent now.

"Ken Norton Jr., making the decision to make me a linebacker, that probably saved my career," Irvin said. "I always would have been an undersized defensive end. I would rather be a big linebacker than a small defensive end. I think the transition was smart."

NFL

Brady, Belichick on balls: 'It wasn't me'

Patriots coach, quarterback have no explanation for deflated balls

By HOWARD ULMAN
The Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The two men most responsible for delivering wins for the New England Patriots both said on Thursday they have no explanation for how footballs used to reach the Super Bowl were underinflated.

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady said he has not been contacted by the NFL, even as league officials investigate whether the team cheated against the Indianapolis Colts in the AFC Championship last Sunday.

"I don't know what happened," Brady said, answering questions from reporters hours after Patriots coach Bill Belichick said he almost never thinks about football pressure, and doesn't know how the game balls came to be 2 pounds per square inch under regulations.

"I didn't alter the ball in any way," Brady said.

Unlike Belichick, who briefly answered questions after a long opening remark by repeatedly saying "I've told you everything I know" and "I don't have an explanation," Brady answered many questions and said he doesn't think about the condition of the football during games.

"I get the snap, I drop back, I throw the ball," Brady said. "I don't sit there and try to squeeze it and determine that."

He does, however, have his preferences — he likes the football to be pumped to 12.5 pounds per square inch of air pressure, he said.

The NFL requires balls to be inflated between 12.5 and 13.5 pound per square inch. Brady said he never has knowingly played with a ball with less than 12.5 pounds per square inch of pressure.

"To me, that's a perfect grip for the football," said Brady, who will face the Seattle Seahawks in the Super Bowl on Feb. 1 in Glendale, Ariz. "I would never do anything outside the rules of play."

With different approaches, Belichick and Brady sent a unified message: Both said they have no clue how the footballs were tampered with or switched, and started learning about the issue along with fans and everyone else.

"I have no knowledge of anything, any wrongdoing," Brady said when asked who on the Patriots was responsible for the underinflated footballs. "I'm very comfortable saying nobody did it as far as I know."

Brady said he picks the game balls he wants to use several hours before kickoff, then doesn't think about them at all. He said he didn't know the protocol for han-



PHOTOS BY ELISE AMENDOLA/AP



New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick, above, and quarterback Tom Brady react during a news conference prior to a team practice in Foxborough, Mass., on Thursday. Each addressed the issue of the NFL investigation of deflated footballs, while providing little insight into what may have actually happened.

Ask a QB: What's the big deal?

The Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — With the NFL investigating whether the New England Patriots used underinflated footballs during the AFC Championship, it's worth asking what advantages a deflated football might hold. Former NFL quarterback Hugh Millen, who played two seasons for the Patriots and helps design footballs for manufacturer Baden in Washington state, explains.

Advantages of deflation

NFL rules mandate that a ball must be inflated between 12.5 and 13.5 pounds per square inch. But a football deflated a couple of pounds below the range is softer, allowing for better grip, Millen said.

"If you're going to be challenged to handle the ball in either very cold conditions or wet conditions, then having the ability to grab the ball and squeeze it, you're going to have more of a chance to remain in contact with the ball," he said.

Deflated balls could also mean faster balls thrown by quarterbacks. Because of the softer grip, the index finger remains on the football a tad longer, allowing for faster spirals during a throw, especially for quarterbacks who like to keep their fingers on the seams, Millen said.

How could the refs miss it?

Referees inspect game balls about two hours before the game, checking the air pressure among other standards. NFL guidelines are clear: A football cannot be tampered with after the pre-game inspection.

While veteran officials could probably feel a difference between a properly inflated ball and a deflated one, referees aren't thinking about ball air pressure during the game since they've already checked them, Millen said. They're busy trying to move the game along.

"If they're not of a mindset to check the ball, they're not engaging their senses," Millen said, adding that some may be wearing gloves.

Possible explanations

In his years in the NFL, Millen said it was common for quarterbacks to ask for balls to be deflated, within the league's acceptable range, if the footballs felt too hard. It takes just a couple of seconds to lose 2 pounds of air pressure after inserting a needle. A team equipment staffer could have been careless.

Another possible reason: Footballs can sometimes leak air. Millen said all football manufacturers produce balls that lose air pressure without tampering.

dling game balls after he chooses them.

"Once I approve the ball, that's the ball that I expect out there on the field," Brady said. "It wasn't even a thought, inking, or concern of mine that they weren't the same ball."

Belichick said that before this week, he didn't give air pressure in footballs much thought at all.

"I've learned more about this process in the last three days than I knew or have talked about it in the last 40 years that I've coached in this league," Belichick said.

SPORTS



australian open

End of the road

17-time Grand Slam champion
Federer ousted in third round » Page 29

NFL PLAYOFFS

Unquestioned

Seattle's Irvin has solidified
his position as a key starter

By TIM BOOTH
The Associated Press

RENTON, Wash.

Every now and then, even during games sometimes, Bruce Irvin will be overwhelmed by gratitude.

He'll remember the two weeks he spent in an Atlanta jail as a teenager. He'll think about turning his life around and becoming a junior college football standout, only to lack the money to continue in school.

And, of course, Irvin will remember all the criticism that was directed toward the Seattle Seahawks when they decided to make him the No. 15 pick of the 2012 draft.

"Sometimes I'll be in a game during a timeout break looking at the crowd and think, 'Dang, a lot of people said I wouldn't be here.' Sometimes I thought about myself I wouldn't be more than what I was," Irvin said. "It's a blessing. I thank God every day. ... Lord knows I was supposed to be in jail or dead. Just for me to be able to practice every day and come out here and watch film is a blessing. I try and make the most of letting the guys know it ain't guaranteed."

Once considered to be a risky draft choice who could only be a pass rusher in the NFL, Irvin has developed into an every down linebacker who rarely leaves the field. On first and second downs, Irvin is a strongside linebacker who plays on the line of scrimmage.

SEE KEY ON PAGE 30

Once thought to be a risky first-round draft pick and a one-trick pony in the NFL that could only rush the passer, Bruce Irvin has developed into a defensive player that never leaves the field.

SCOTT EKUND/AP

Inside:

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Gordon will race one more season before retiring

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